PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 534 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
24 October 2011—4 November 2011

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON—THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED

£105
(Two parts not sold separately)

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ISBN 978 0 215 56376 7

Printed in the UK by The Stationery Office

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 24 October 2011

TREASURY

HM Revenue and Customs - Discussion Document

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): HM Revenue and Customs is publishing today a discussion document on pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) pooling. Its purpose is to consult on HMRC's proposals to alter the PAYE system to give closely connected employers the option of being treated as a single entity for PAYE purposes (PAYE pooling).

The discussion document is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/.

PRIME MINISTER

The Cabinet Manual

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The Government have published today "The Cabinet Manual" on the Cabinet Office website: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-manual.

"The Cabinet Manual" is intended to be a source of information on the UK's laws, conventions and rules that affect the operation and procedures of Government.

A summary of responses received on the "Draft Cabinet Manual", which was published in December 2010, and a Government response to the reports of the House of Lords Constitution Committee, Political and Constitutional Reform Committee and Public Administration Select Committee (Cm 8213) on "The Cabinet Manual" have also been published on the Cabinet Office website.

Copies of all documents have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and also in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

TRANSPORT

National Policy Statement (Ports)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): Having considered consultation responses and the report of the previous Select Committee on Transport, I am today laying before Parliament the national policy statement for ports in England and Wales, pursuant to section 5(9)(b) of the Planning Act 2008, together with the Government's response to the Committee.

I am also publishing, on the Department's website, a written response to the consultation and an updated version of the appraisal of sustainability that had been published as part of the consultation process.

The ports industry is a vital contributor to this country's economic recovery and success. Well over 90% of trade by tonnage passes through sea ports, and so the importance of a clear planning framework for their future sustainable development can hardly be overstated.

The NPS gives full prominence to the importance of development in sympathy with the environment, while also stressing the national need for developers' commercial judgments to be respected in what continues to be a successful, market-oriented and responsible sector.

It has been agreed with the House that the same procedure as proposed in the Localism Bill will be followed for the NPS. The Secretary of State intends to designate the NPS after a period of 21 sitting days has elapsed, or following a debate in the House of Commons if the House wishes one, and approves the NPS, within that period.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 25 October 2011

DEFENCE

Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): As the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645, we are proceeding with a number of high-priority equipment projects vital to Future Force 2020 as set out in the strategic defence and security review.

I am pleased to announce today the successful outcome of the Warrior capability sustainment programme competition. Subject to final contractual negotiations we intend to award a contract to Lockheed Martin UK for the demonstration and subsequent manufacture of the upgraded Warrior vehicles with a potential value of £1 billion.

The Warrior infantry fighting vehicle has been in service with the British Army since 1989 and has been deployed extensively and with distinction in theatres including Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The Warrior capability sustainment programme will provide a major upgrade to the vehicles and extend their service life to beyond 2040. The programme includes an improved turret and a new stabilised 40 mm cannon, an enhanced electronic architecture to cope with the demands of modern communications and vehicle systems, and the provision of a common armour mounting system to allow interoperability with current and future protection technology.

The upgraded Warrior platforms will be key components within the new multi-role brigade structure, and will provide armoured infantry battalions with battle-winning capability for the future. The turret and cannon will enable the ability to fire on the move and represent a step change in lethality ensuring that our armed forces are able to counter the threats of the future. Warrior gives the Army the mobility, firepower, and protection to deliver infantry into battle and on to an enemy objective while under fire. The comprehensive upgrades will ensure that Warrior will continue to play an essential role in the conduct of land operations—whether within a coalition or nationally.

The upgrade programme delivers a cost-effective, timely, and efficient commercial solution for this essential Army capability.

The award of this contract to Lockheed Martin UK will create and sustain approximately 600 British jobs within the company and its supply chain, representing 90% of UK content, as the programme moves through the demonstration and manufacture phases. This will ensure the sustainment of UK jobs, UK skills, and UK capabilities within the armoured vehicle sector.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

London Conference on Cyberspace

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I would like to inform the House that I will be hosting the London conference on cyberspace at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre from 1-2 November 2011 in association with the International Chamber of Commerce, the Royal Institute for International Affairs and Wilton Park.

The rapid development of the world wide web, from 16 million users in 1995 to nearly 2 billion today, has created economic and social opportunities unforeseen less than two decades ago.

At the Munich security conference in February, I proposed that the UK host an international conference, to bring together the major actors in cyberspace and to launch an inclusive dialogue on how, collectively, we should respond to the challenges and opportunities which the development of cyberspace presents. The purpose of this conference is to discuss ideas and expected behaviour in cyberspace. This will form the basis of the "London Agenda" which will help shape future international and national discussions on cyberspace. A number of countries have agreed to host a follow-on conference within 12-18 months of the London conference.

I proposed seven principles as a framework for discussions:

(1) The need for Governments to act proportionately in cyberspace and in accordance with national and international law;

(2) The need for everyone to have the ability—in terms of skills, technology, confidence and opportunity—to access cyberspace;

(3) The need for users of cyberspace to show tolerance and respect for diversity of language, culture and ideas;

(4) Ensuring that cyberspace remains open to innovation and the free flow of ideas, information and expression;

(5) The need to respect individual rights of privacy and to provide proper protection to intellectual property;

(6) The need for us all to work collectively to tackle the threat from criminals acting online;

(7) The promotion of a competitive environment which ensures a fair return on investment in network, services and content.

Over 60 countries will be represented at the conference at senior ministerial level with heads of industry, international organisations including the UN, World Bank and EU, academic and civil society organisations.

The conference will support the UK's commercial objectives by helping to establish UK industry as a leader in cyberspace. Thirty UK companies will exhibit at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

The conference will be live-streamed and the wider online community will be able to participate directly, feeding in their views through social media networks. A series of interactive events around the conference led by business, youth groups and civil society, will demonstrate at first hand the power of the internet to connect people.

Further details are available at link: www.fco.gov.uk/londoncyber. A programme, including participants, will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing Scheme Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I am today announcing a change to the planned implementation date for the proposed reforms to the air travel organisers' licensing (ATOL) scheme.

The ATOL reform consultation, which took place between 23 June and 15 September 2011, proposed that the new regulations for bringing flight-plus holidays into ATOL would come into force on 1 January 2012.

Over 80 responses to the consultation were received. The final details of the ATOL reforms are being decided in light of these responses. However the overwhelming view from the travel industry has been that implementation on 1 January 2012 would provide insufficient time for businesses to make the necessary preparations to comply with the new requirements. This is partly due to the time needed to update IT systems and put in place the processes required to enable businesses to identify when a flight-plus holiday has been formed.

In recognition of these concerns, and to ensure that the new regulations are implemented fully, consistently and in a way that minimises the scope for error and subsequent confusion among passengers, I have decided that the new regulations will not now come into force on 1 January. Instead I intend to implement the reforms in April 2012 in order to give the industry enough time to respond to these new consumer protection requirements.

I expect to make a further announcement before the end of the year about decisions on the other ATOL reform issues in the consultation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 26 October 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 10 October. Stewart Stevenson, Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change, also joined the delegation.

Following lengthy debate, the Council adopted conclusions on preparations for the 17th session of the conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto protocol in Durban. The text signals the EU's continued openness to a second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol as part of a transition to a wider legally binding framework, and sets out the EU's negotiating position on the range of other issues in the negotiations.

Ministers also adopted conclusions setting out the EU's high-level position ahead of the Rio plus 20 conference next year. These send a clear political signal that the EU wants the conference to be a success. I emphasised the need for Ministers to focus on the EU's strategic objectives for Rio plus 20 and the need for the conference to produce concrete outcomes in order to move us towards a genuine "green economy".

Recently I attended the Delhi ministerial meeting on Rio plus 20. There was broad consensus that delegations have little appetite for simply agreeing a long-winded communiqué at Rio—they want action and implementation. The main outcomes of the Delhi meeting were: widespread agreement on the need for specific measures to make the transition to a greener global economy; recognition of the strong links between climate change, biodiversity and poverty reduction, and their importance for growth; agreement on the need to strengthen international environmental governance; and considerable interest in the Colombian proposal for sustainable development goals. Food security and sustainable agriculture, energy security and energy access, and resource efficiency were all identified as key themes for the Rio plus 20 summit.

The Environment Council also adopted conclusions on the review of the sixth environment action programme (EAP) and looking forward to the seventh. In this context, the Commission presented its road map towards a resource-efficient Europe, making it clear that they saw this as a comprehensive issue, covering much of the Commission's work on environment, climate and energy. Both issues were discussed by Ministers over lunch, with several Ministers emphasising the need to focus on implementation of existing legislation rather than new initiatives in developing a future framework.

The Council adopted conclusions and a Council decision setting out the position of the EU and its member states ahead of the 10th meeting of the conference of the parties to the Basel convention on the control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal which will, among other things, discuss the mechanism for entry into force of the "ban amendment".

The Aviation Emissions Trading Scheme was discussed under other business: the Commission encouraged member states to defend vigorously the legislation and counter some of the misunderstanding evident among others. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change agreed with their approach and reiterated the UK's full support for the directive.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I attended an extraordinary meeting of the General Affairs Council (GAC) on 22 October in Brussels.

The GAC was chaired by the Polish EU presidency (Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, State Secretary for European Affairs). A draft record of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/125491.pdf

Ministers reviewed preparations for the October European Council, the outcome of which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reported to Parliament on 24 October.

Additionally, Ministers agreed new general arrangements for the delivery of EU statements in multilateral organisations. The document setting out these arrangements can be found at:

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st15/st15901.en11.pdf

I have written to the chairs of the Scrutiny and Select Committees to provide further detail on this agreement. I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the general arrangements and the text of a UK statement for the minute.

I will also continue to update Parliament on General Affairs Councils.

Council of Europe (UK Chairmanship)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): On 7 November, the UK takes over from Ukraine the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The chairmanship is a rare opportunity for the UK to play a leading role in the vital work of the Council of Europe in promoting rights, democracy and rule of law across the continent.

The Council of Europe is dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law and democracy across 47 countries and 800 million citizens. The UK was a founder member in 1949, and the first country to ratify the European convention on human rights (ECHR), the Council of Europe's best-known instrument, two years later. The ECHR was developed in post-war Europe to try to offer people basic protections from tyranny—such as the right to life, freedom from torture and freedom of speech. These rights are still fundamentally important today.

Yesterday I met Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, to discuss the UK's chairmanship priorities. I am pleased to say that he supports fully our proposals. Each incoming chairmanship issues a priorities document shortly before their tenure begins. I have now done so and have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

The overarching theme of our chairmanship will be the protection and promotion of human rights. The Government have repeatedly made it clear that human rights are central to their foreign policy. We aim to be an example of a society that upholds human rights and democracy, and we are committed to strengthening the rules-based international system.

First and foremost, we will drive forwards the ongoing programme of reform of the European Court of Human Rights. The Court is an essential part of the system for protecting human rights across Europe. But it is struggling with its huge, growing backlog of applications—now over 155,000. At times it has been too ready to substitute its own judgment for that of national courts and Parliaments. This situation undermines the Court's authority and effectiveness.

Concrete measures to improve the Court's efficiency are urgently required. Moreover, it should be focusing on areas where the convention is not being properly applied or there is a need at European level for authoritative guidance on the correct interpretation of the convention. Where member states are applying the convention effectively, the Court should intervene less.

With the joint leadership of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, under our chairmanship we will seek agreement to a package of reforms which would: help deal with the Court's backlog; support better implementation of the convention at national level; introduce new rules or procedures to help ensure that the Court plays a subsidiary role where member states are fulfilling their obligations under the convention; and help to ensure the best possible procedures for selecting judges to the Court and promote consistency of judgments.

Reform requires the agreement of all 47 member states. We will accord the highest political priority to securing consensus to the necessary reforms by means of a political declaration at the end of our chairmanship. This declaration will set out the agreements we have reached on the reforms to be implemented, including—where necessary—by amendments to the procedural sections of the convention.

In addition, I have assured the Secretary-General that the UK will actively support his programme of reforms of the Council of Europe. We will work towards implementation of measures which will help to deliver more focused, streamlined and effective organisation and a more efficient budget.

The UK chairmanship will also give priority to a range of initiatives where we believe the Council of Europe can help to advance the UK's foreign policy objectives:

we will promote an open internet, not only in terms of access and content but also freedom of expression. This is an important policy priority for the UK and one of the issues being addressed at the cyber conference being hosted in London by the Foreign Secretary on 1 November. We will support the adoption of the draft Council of Europe strategy on internet governance, and the implementation of the principles it has adopted to uphold freedom of expression on the internet, to ensure that all member states live up to their international obligations in this area;

we will work to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity across Europe. The Government are committed to using their relationship with other countries to push for unequivocal support for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including advocating for changes to discriminatory practices and laws that criminalise homosexuality in other countries. The Council of Europe has adopted recommendations on this issue and conducted a study on the situation in member states. We will work with the secretariat and our partners in the Committee of Ministers to improve all member states' performance in this area;

we will work towards a more effective and efficient role for the Council of Europe in supporting local and regional democracy. The Council of Europe has a significant programme of activities in this area, including monitoring and sharing of expertise, which the UK supports but wants to see streamlined and more carefully targeted;

we will support the strengthening of the rule of law in the member states. We will work towards practical recommendations in this area, in co-operation with our partners in the Committee of Ministers, the secretariat and the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission).

UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace and Security

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing an annual review of the UK Government National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace and Security.

This Government published a revised national action plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace and Security on 25 November 2010 and the annual review focuses on the commitments that the Government have taken forward since that time.

We are grateful to the Associate Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security (APG WPS) and the civil society umbrella organisation Gender Action on Peace and Security (GAPS) for the regular and ongoing consultations that take place about the NAP. Officials will attend a meeting with the associate parliamentary group and GAPS on 31 October to discuss this review.

This Government intend to produce a revised NAP at the start of 2012 taking into account the recommendations we receive from APG WPS and GAPS. A full evaluation of the NAP is scheduled to take place in 2013.

I have deposited a copy of the annual review in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the FCO website at www.fco.gov.uk.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on the 27 and 28 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

The Council will begin in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states). There will be an update on the Commission-led project to implement the central element of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II); the UK will continue to reiterate its support for the continuation of the current SIS II project.

Next the Commission will give an update on the roll-out of the central Visa Information System (VIS). The UK is not bound by the VIS regulation because it does not participate in the common visa element of the Schengen acquis.

The Commission will present and invite an exchange of views on whether member states can support the legislative instrument amending Regulation (EC) No. 1931/2006 as regards the inclusion of the Kaliningrad area and certain Polish administrative districts in the eligible border area. The UK is not bound by this regulation since it relates to that part of the Schengen agreement in which the UK does not participate.

There will be a presentation by the Commission on their communication on smart borders. The communication addresses options, implications and possible ways forward in developing both a European entry/exit system and a registered traveller programme (brought together under the heading of smart borders). The initiatives will rely on developing technologies to expedite border crossings for regular travellers while maintaining the security and the integrity of border controls. They aim to include technical infrastructure issues, data protection aspects and the costs incurred in developing and operating both systems, which are aimed at third-country nationals crossing the Schengen external borders. The UK is excluded from both the measures since it does not participate in the common visa element of the Schengen acquis.

There will also be the signature of the mobility partnership between the EU and Armenia by those member states who will participate in this partnership. The UK has no plans to participate and will not take part in the signing of the partnership.

The main Council will start with a state-of-play discussion on the progress of the dossiers forming the second phase of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). This has been a regular item at recent JHA Councils as the deadline for agreeing the dossiers in 2012 approaches. The UK does not support a common asylum system involving further legislative harmonisation, but we do support practical action to secure effective asylum systems, including returns. While we do not believe that further legislation setting common standards is the way to achieve this, we will work with member states to make sure any new legislation is as practical as possible and can be implemented on the ground.

There will be state-of-play discussions on two directives presented by the presidency. The first concerns a single application procedure for a single permit for non-EU member nationals to reside and work in a member state and on a common set of rights for non-EU member workers legally residing in a member state. The second deals with minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection and the content of the protection granted. Both of these directives have reached agreement in principle within the Council; however, there is an outstanding issue of correlation tables that needs to be resolved with the European Parliament. The UK has not opted in to either of these instruments.

There will be a progress report on Greece's national action plan on asylum reform and migration management. The UK will take the opportunity to acknowledge the improvements that have taken place while putting pressure on Greece to step up the pace of reform and to tackle its unacceptable detention facilities for asylum seekers.

There will then be a presentation by the Commission and a first exchange of views on the Commission communication on the integration of third-country nationals, which was published on 20 July. There are no immediate legal or legislative implications; integration strategies are a matter of national competence and the communication acknowledges this. The communication is broadly in line with the UK's views on integration: we welcome the emphasis on a flexible approach including action at local and national level, acquisition of language skills and recognition that integration is a two-way process (migrant and host country).

Over lunch we expect Ministers will discuss an Austrian-Hungarian joint paper on illegal migration and visa liberalisation, with a particular focus on the western Balkans. Discussion will also include illegal immigration via the southern Mediterranean, and in particular current developments in Libya and Tunisia, requested by Italy. The UK will raise the need to tackle abuse of free movement, including sham marriages.

The Commission will also present its communication "Towards a stronger European response to drugs" and there will be a discussion on the draft European pact against synthetic drugs. The presidency will look to agree the draft text of the pact. The UK welcomes the priority that the presidency has given to this important issue and approves of the draft text in the pact. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) will also present its 2011 annual report on the state of the drug problems in Europe.

There will be an orientation debate on options for a European Terrorist Finance Tracking System (TFTS) on the basis of a Commission communication which was published in July. This meets a commitment to the European Parliament to consider the feasibility of an EU system following the adoption last year of the EU-US Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP). The Government's view is that the necessity of an EU system has not yet been demonstrated. There are also important questions around legal base, operational requirements and costs that are yet to be adequately answered. As such the Government do not believe they can choose between any of the available options at this stage. The UK will make clear that no decision can be taken on a way forward without first seeing a full impact assessment of each of the options (including the option of maintaining the status quo). This assessment must address the questions about necessity of an EU system; about the technical, legal and operational issues involved; and about the likely high costs.

The Commission will be presenting its communication on co-operation in the area of the JHA within the eastern partnership (EaP). The communication sets out proposals on how to strengthen JHA co-operation with the EaP countries, and the UK endorses the pragmatic focus on the consolidation and streamlining of existing frameworks. Promoting EU engagement with the EaP remains a priority for the Polish presidency, and the UK recognises the importance of offering continued support to the EU's neighbours. There has been broad support for the communication so far and a general consensus that new structures are not required. The presidency is expected to prepare draft Council conclusions after an exchange of views at the Council.

Finally, the presidency will make a presentation on the state of play of the negotiations for an EU-US data protection agreement. The Council agreed a negotiating mandate at the 2010 December Council.

The justice day will begin with the Commission presenting its newly published regulation on a EU common sales law. This issue was discussed in general terms at the informal JHA Council on 19 July and this will be an opportunity for the Commission to explain its proposed action. Over lunch there will be a further discussion of some aspects of sales law.

There will then be a discussion regarding the draft directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest. This is the third proposal on the EU's criminal procedural rights road map which sets minimum standards for the rights of the defence. This measure was presented at the September JHA Council when the UK informed the Council that it had not opted in to this directive.

Next, there will be an orientation debate on the draft directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The UK has opted in to this draft directive.

The presidency will also provide a state-of-play update on the draft directive on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. A general approach was reached on this proposal at the JHA Council in December 2010.

Finally, under non-legislative activities, there is an item regarding judicial training. A Commission communication was published in September and the Commission made a presentation at the last Council meeting. It is expected that the Council will be asked to agree the draft Council conclusions on the Commission's communication.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 27 October 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships (Progress and Delivery)

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): As demonstrated by the statistical first release published today (http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/) we have seen a record year for apprenticeships, both in respect of the volumes of people starting and completing their apprenticeship. Provisional data for the full 2010-11 academic year show starts increased by over 50% to 442,700 with increases at all levels. Completions also saw a strong increase to 181,700.

We have delivered increases in apprenticeship starts at all age groups. Provisional data show that numbers of apprenticeship starts increased to 128,300 for those aged under 19, 138,900 for 19 to 24-year-olds and 175,500 for those aged 25 and over in 2010-11. For young people in particular, these are positive figures in a time when they are facing particular challenges in the labour market. This is very encouraging and employers are continuing to use apprenticeships as a means of developing the skills they need for their businesses.

Apprenticeships are first and foremost sustainable jobs, which makes it a remarkable achievement to deliver growth in the programme on such a scale. We can be confident that the growth being reported today is in those apprenticeships which businesses value and are investing in. Growth is evident across sectors.

We will build upon this success and continue to improve and strengthen the programme further so even more individuals and employers can access and benefit from an apprenticeship programme that is world class. As we look to the future we will continue to improve access to apprenticeships; improve and drive up quality for all apprenticeships; reduce bureaucracy; expand advanced level and higher apprenticeships and give employers greater ownership of the programme.

TREASURY

Extraordinary ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): An extraordinary meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 22 October 2011.

The Council met to prepare the European Council meeting of 23 October as regards measures to stabilise the situation on financial markets, restore confidence, and foster economic growth and employment. It held an exchange of views on bank recapitalisation and funding as part of a comprehensive strategy to be defined by the European Council and by Heads of State and Government of the euro area.

I emphasised the importance of a decisive co-ordinated recapitalisation as part of a comprehensive solution to the euro crisis, and that this should be accompanied by reform of Europe's banking sector. I also underlined that there should be no watering down of state aid rules.

The president of the Council presented the outcome of the meeting to the European Council, and it was reflected in the European Council conclusions as follows:

> "The European Council welcomes progress made by the Council (ECOFIN) on measures for the banking sector and invites the Council to finalise this work at its meeting of 26 October. These measures will be an essential component of a broader package whose other elements will be agreed by the Euro Summit of 26 October."

DEFENCE

British Nuclear Test Veterans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life health services for our service and ex-service personnel.

As part of that commitment, last year we commissioned an independent health needs audit by Miles and Green Associates. I am announcing today the publication of their report. I would also like to express my appreciation for the help and support provided to Miles and Green Associates by the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA).

The audit records the direct experience and views of nuclear test veterans about their health and social care needs. Whatever their particular health needs, most respondents indicated that, in general, they felt their health and social care needs were being met by the NHS although a number of issues were raised about access to social care. The veterans also made suggestions for the future relating to general health and social care needs, those more specific to veterans and ways in which relations and communications with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) could be improved.

The MOD will now consider the report's findings and suggestions made by the veterans in detail and in consultation with other Government Departments and will wish to work with the BNTVA going forward on looking at the various issues raised.

A copy of the full report will be placed in the Library of the House and will also be available on the MOD's website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/HealthandSafety/NuclearTests/

Submarine Dismantling Project

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): The Ministry of Defence will tomorrow—28 October 2011—start a period of public consultation on the options for dismantling nuclear-powered submarines that have left service with the Royal Navy, including those that are in afloat storage at Devonport and Rosyth dockyards.

Submarines in afloat storage are maintained safely, in a similar way to operational submarines. As they age, however, and as further submarines leave service, the cost to the taxpayer of maintaining them is rising significantly, and space to store them is running out.

This consultation will seek the public's views on the proposals that have been developed by the MOD's Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) for dismantling and disposing of the submarines in a safe, secure and environmentally responsible way. It will seek views on the three key decisions that need to be made about submarine dismantling:

How the radioactive material is removed from the submarines;

Where we carry out the removal of the radioactive material from the submarines; and

Which type of site is used to store the radioactive waste that is awaiting disposal.

The consultation will run for 16 weeks, from 28 October 2011 until 17 February 2012. This period has been extended from the 12-week minimum to account for the Christmas holidays and in recognition of the interest in the project.

A series of events, including exhibitions and workshops, will be held in and around the Devonport and Rosyth areas, where the candidate sites for the removal of the radioactive waste from the submarines are located. National workshops will also be held in accessible locations in England and Scotland.

Consultation events will be advertised in the local press and on the project website, www.mod.uk/submarinedismantling, where all relevant documentation, including extensive supporting information, will also be published. All the responses received during the consultation process will be considered by the MOD during its further analysis of the options before final decisions are made around 2013. Only then will planning applications for activities on specific sites be made.

Details of the MOD's proposals and of the plans for public consultation are included in the SDP consultation document, copies of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I should like to correct my response to a topical question on the application of the Freedom of Information Act to the new waterways charity (the Canal and River Trust) by the hon. Member for Chippenham (Duncan Hames) on 13 October, *Official Report*, column 471.

The Government are publicly consulting on the point raised by the hon. Member, and have not yet taken up a position on the matter. The consultation closed on 24 October, and we are now considering the consultation responses, prior to making a decision. A copy of the consultation document can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/09/12/waterways-1109/.

The Government will publish their analysis of the responses and their own response later in the autumn.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces, the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) and I are pleased to inform the House that the financial dispute between the Ministry of Defence and the Ascension Island Government has been resolved and that we have agreed with the Ascension Island Council a number of changes to the island's finance model which will help to ensure a sustainable future for Ascension.

Earlier this year, we commissioned a review of service delivery and finance arrangements on the island. That review was carried out by FCO officials working closely with all stakeholders. The three key recommendations of the review which we have agreed, and to which all stakeholders have committed, are:

The establishment of a Budget Consultation Forum to make recommendations on the Ascension Island Government's budget. The forum will comprise representatives of the Ascension Island Government and the major, externally based taxpaying Employing Organisations on the island;

The replacement of Property Tax with a Business Levy based on employee headcount; and

A year-on-year reduction of 7% over the next four years in the levy on the major Employing Organisations.

We recognise the role played by the Island Council in this process, who have already begun a programme of significant efficiency savings. They will now consider the remainder of the recommendations in the report which concern the increase or implementation of taxes and duties and other means of raising revenue, and continue to reduce duplication of services on the island.

We welcome this approach which we believe will ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery and the viability of Ascension Island's finances.

Prevention of Torture 2011-2015 (FCO Strategy)

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I wish to make the House aware that the FCO has developed a Strategy for the Prevention of Torture. I have placed a copy of the strategy in the Library of the House and it is also available on the FCO website.

International action against torture has long been a priority for the UK. The UK considers torture to be an abhorrent violation of human rights and human dignity, and consistently and unreservedly condemns the practice. Preventing torture and tackling impunity for those who torture are essential components of safeguarding Britain's security; and it is integral to fair legal systems and the rule of law. Torture prevention work also reinforces our consular work overseas when British nationals imprisoned abroad allege mistreatment.

The "Strategy for the Prevention of Torture" sets out FCO policy to 2015 and offers guidance to FCO posts on how they can contribute to preventing torture overseas. Our objective is to help international efforts to prevent torture globally by working to ensure:

Legal frameworks to prevent and prohibit torture are in place and are enforced;

States have the political will and capacity to prevent and prohibit torture;

Organisations on the ground have the expertise and training to prevent torture.

HEALTH

HIV/AIDS

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): We have today laid before Parliament the Government response to the House of Lords Select Committee's report "No vaccine, no cure: HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom" (Cm 8190).

The Department of Health took part in the inquiry and the Government are grateful for the Committee's report and agree with many of its recommendations.

Twenty-five years have passed since the Government's first response to HIV and AIDS. At that time there was no effective treatment and an HIV diagnosis was seen as a life-limiting condition resulting in death. Today the availability of highly effective treatment has transformed the outlook for people with HIV.

As the report makes clear, we need to reduce undiagnosed HIV so people can benefit from effective treatment and to prevent HIV transmission. The Government's modernisation of the NHS and priority for public health provides a good opportunity to improve outcomes for HIV and improve prevention.

The House of Lords ad hoc Committee's report will also help inform the Department of Health's new sexual health policy framework planned for 2012.

Copies of the Government's response are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

TRANSPORT

Rail Franchising

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): In May this year, the then Secretary of State announced that the next intercity west coast franchise would start on 9 December 2012. It was further announced that the Department intended to enter into negotiations with the incumbent franchisee (West Coast Trains Ltd and Virgin Rail Group) to secure affordable and value-for-money operations until the start of the new franchise.

I am pleased to announce that the Department has now agreed an extension with West Coast Trains Ltd and Virgin Rail Group. This agreement will extend their current franchise on the intercity west coast route from 1 April 2012 until the start of the new franchise.

Over the course of the extension three new 600-seat Pendolino trains will be added to the line. This is in addition to the new Pendolino train which entered service in July of this year. Also, 31 of the existing Pendolino trains will be lengthened from nine to 11 carriages, increasing the number of standard class seats on each train by almost 50%, from 320 to 470. In all, 106 new carriages are being introduced on the route making 28,000 extra seats available each day, an increase of 25%. This will relieve crowding on some of the busiest parts of the west coast main line which is one the UK economy's most important transport corridors.

Virgin will also be responsible for providing important services enabling people to travel by train to the Olympic and Paralympic games next summer.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 31 October 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Economic Growth

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): The Government announced in April the outcome of the first round of the regional growth fund and at the same time launched round 2, bidding for which closed on 1 July.

I am pleased to announce today the outcome of that second round. Round 2 proved to be equally popular as round 1, attracting 492 bids for a total of £3.3 billion. The independent advisory panel, chaired by Lord Heseltine considered all these bids over the summer and made their recommendations to Ministers. Given the high number and quality of bids received, Ministers were only able to approve the very best bids that offered the greatest value for money and I am pleased to announce the outcome of this process today.

In total, the Government have made conditional allocations in this round, subject to due diligence, of the remaining £950 million. There are 119 successful bids announced today. Discussions are ongoing with a further 10 bidders about their projects. More importantly, the public investment in these projects and programmes is expected to generate nearly £6 billion of private sector funding. Overall these investments will directly support the creation or safeguarding more than 37,000 jobs. In addition, over a further 164,000 jobs in related supply chains and local economies will be created and safeguarded by the success of these projects and programme.

These conditional allocations of Government investment are supporting dynamic and innovative projects and programmes that will generate new jobs the length and breadth of England. In round 1, the RGF elicited a 5:1 ratio of private sector investment. In round 2 this has increased to 6:1. The increased proportion of private sector leverage in this round is a clear demonstration of how the challenge of the regional growth fund has acted as a catalyst for the private sector to invest in sustainable and balanced growth.

The successful bids will now be subject to a due diligence process, as with round 1 bids. These due diligence checks establish whether the Government are confident that the organisations awarded conditional offers are able to deliver on the proposals in their bid. A list of the successful bids is attached to this statement, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is also available from the BIS website at: www.bis.gov.uk.

The Government remain wholly committed to our agenda of generating growth and I am pleased that today's announcement takes us further towards our goal of delivering a stable, well-balanced economy that creates sustainable private sector jobs and strengthens communities.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS LIST FROM ROUND 2

Note—Although 119 bids have been successful the list below includes beneficiaries who were part of a package bid (a bid with two or more beneficiaries). Furthermore, a small number of bids have not been included in the list due to, for example, commercial sensitivities. Details on these bids will be made available after due diligence.

East Midlands and South East Midlands: 1,400 direct jobs, 7,800 indirect jobs.

Druck Limited
University of Leicester
JC Bamford Excavators Ltd
Derby City
Usha Martin UK Limited
Federal-Mogul Friction Products Limited
Disley Tissue Ltd

North East: 8,500 direct jobs, 17,000 indirect jobs.

Process Technologies Division of Johnson Matthey PLC
Tioxide Europe Limited
Fine Industries Limited
Wellstream International Ltd
Cummins
Eutechnyx Limited
AKS Precision Ball Europe Limited
Darchem Engineering Limited
Kromek Limited
Dyer Engineering
Raisco Limited
Hiatco Ltd
Bignall Lubritec Ltd
BLS Electronics Ltd
Permoid
Carlton & Co
Tinsley Special Products Limited
Vantec Europe Limited
Able UK Limited
PD Teesport Limited
Zegen (Wilton) Limited
TeraVerdae BioWorks Ltd
Northern Pinetree Trust
Northeast of England Process Industry Cluster Limited (NEPIC)
Rettig UK
Aesica Pharmaceuticals Limited
Piramal Healthcare UK Ltd
Shasun Pharma Solutions Ltd
Precision Hydraulic Cylinders (UK) Ltd
International Pipeline Products Limited
Greencroft Bottling Company Limited
Propeller (GB) Ltd
Jarrow Brewery
Omega North East Ltd
Hydram Engineering Ltd
HE Woolley Ltd. (The Company)
John Harrison (Stockton) Limited
Pearson-Harper Ltd
Mediaworks UK LTD
Responsive Engineering Group Limited
Newcastle University
Gateshead College

Riverside Flooring LTD
Calsonic Kansei Sunderland Limited
Unipres (UK) Limited
ThyssenKrupp Tallent Limited
Heerema Hartlepool Limited
TRW Systems Ltd—Peterlee
Narec Development Services Limited (NDSL)

North West: 7,800 direct jobs, 39,500 indirect jobs.

University of Liverpool
Harpscreen(GB) Ltd
Pirelli Tyres Ltd
Phoenix Court Blackburn Limited
Gilbert Gilkes and Gordon Limited ("Gilkes")
Crown Speciality Packaging UK Ltd
Redx Pharma Ltd
Double R Controls Limited
C&C Baseline Ltd
Standish Engineering Ltd
Ronfell
Double R Controls Ltd
North West Aerospace Alliance
Sefton Council
Eldonians Group Limited,
Energy Coast West Cumbria Ltd
The Listen Media Company LTD
The Greater Manchester LEP
Siemens plc
Diodes Zetex Semiconductors Ltd
Ferguson Polycom Limited
Salford City Council
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council ("TMBC")
Economic Solutions Ltd
Pochin Developments Limited
Keepmoat Homes Ltd
Regenerate Pennine Lancashire Limited
Lucite International UK Ltd
Bentley Motors
DI UK
HMG Paints Ltd
Burnley BC
Pilkington United Kingdom Limited
Getrag Ford Transmissions

South East: 7,400 direct jobs, 22,300 indirect jobs.

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust
Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
Southampton City Council
The East Kent districts of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet
Vestas Technology UK Ltd,
Luton Borough Council
Lotus Cars Ltd

South West: 5,300 direct jobs, 17,600 indirect jobs

Universal Engineering
Mulberry Company (design) Ltd
DTR VMS Ltd
Airbus Operations Ltd
Geothermal Engineering Ltd
The Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP
City of Bristol College
North Somerset Council

West Midlands: 3,900 direct jobs, 29,800 indirect jobs.

LNX Distribution Limited
Zytek Automotive Ltd
Aeromet International Plc
Alamo Manufacturing Services (UK) Limited
Herefordshire Council
Moorland & City Railways Ltd.
Sunsolar Energy Limited
Birmingham Post
Caparo Precision Strip
Angle Ring Holdings Limited
Thomas Dudley Limited
NDC Polythenes Ltd
Pargat & Co Limited
Stoke-on-Trent Regeneration Ltd
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Advanced Engineering Supply Chain
Steelite International plc
Ceram Research Ltd
Trac Group Limited

Yorkshire & Humber: 3,000 direct jobs, 13,700 indirect jobs.

SEW Eurodrive UK
Cummins Turbo Technologies
Surgical Innovations Ltd
BOC Ltd
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
University of Sheffield—AMRC
Sirius Minerals, Plc
Leeds City Region
North Lincolnshire Council
Wakefield Council
City of Bradford MDC
Sheffield Forgemasters International Limited
Stainless Plating Limited
T&N Plastics Limited
600 UK Ltd
RoadTankers Northern Ltd
Heights Ltd
Hindle
VTL (Europe) Ltd
i-plas Products Ltd
Halifax Rack and Screw Cutting Co Ltd
Treves UK LTD
Severn Unival Ltd

Other bids—national: 200 direct jobs, 16,500 indirect jobs

Fredericks Foundation
VisitEngland
Creative England
Santander UK plc

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I am today publishing a consultation paper entitled "Technical Reforms of Council Tax". It follows, in part, from the local government resource review's commitment to consider what flexibilities local authorities should have to help keep overall council tax levels down. It discusses a series of practical proposals which will help hardworking families and pensioners with their council tax bills.

Its proposals for discussion include:

> Giving councils the flexibility to reduce or remove council tax relief on second homes and empty homes, allowing councils to use the money to keep overall council tax bills down and/or spend on improving front-line services. These flexibilities would potentially allow for a £20 reduction in the bill for a typical band D property in England. Getting empty homes back into use will increase housing supply and tackle property blight. Councils can already reduce the second homes discount to just 10%—we propose giving councils the local discretion to charge the normal rate of council tax. The job-related second homes discount (where someone has to live in a dwelling because of their job) would be unaffected. Indeed, our Government have increased the help the armed forces scheme gives for service personnel towards council tax. There is nothing morally wrong with second homes, but special tax relief at the expense of ordinary homeowners is difficult to justify. I believe local taxpayers would welcome the prospect of having a lower council tax bill than would otherwise be the case as a result of empty homes no longer being given favoured tax treatment.
>
> The paper also consults on the empty homes premium for long-term properties announced by Ministers in September. I would note that there are no plans to change the rules on council tax relief currently available in respect of properties left empty because a person has moved into a hospital or care home, has died, or has moved to provide care to another. These are special circumstances. Moreover, councils will be encouraged to use their existing powers to apply discretionary discounts in cases where homes are empty due to other justifiable circumstances—for example, hardship, fire or flooding.
>
> Giving local residents a new right to pay their council tax bills in 12 monthly payments, rather than 10 instalments over a year. This will make it easier for local taxpayers to manage their payments, especially those on fixed incomes like pensioners.
>
> Encouraging the greater use of electronic billing by allowing the associated documents that have to be supplied in hard copy with council tax bills to be provided electronically instead. Local taxpayers would still have a right to hard copy documents, for free, on request. Utility companies routinely offer discounts for customers who pay by e-billing and direct debit, and this is something I am keen to promote for council tax.
>
> Ensuring there are no increases in the tax liabilities of homes as a result of domestic scale photovoltaic solar panels being installed by a third party supplier under a "rent a roof" scheme. These changes will avoid the imposition of a "sun tax" and the need for inspections of homes with solar panels.
>
> Reviewing the circumstances in which giving a self-contained ("granny") annex its own council tax liability and banding is appropriate; this is a very complex area of legislation, but I appreciate that there has been some public concern that the current regime is unfair on some homeowners.

These practical improvements complement our other reforms to council tax: cancelling the council tax revaluation which would have forced up bills for millions of homes; working with local councils to deliver a two-year council tax freeze; and giving local residents a new right to veto excessive council tax increases. It contrasts with the last Administration who doubled council tax.

A copy of the consultation paper is available in the Library and on my Department's website.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feed-in Tariffs

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): Today I am publishing a consultation paper on proposed changes to feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV). The consultation will close on 23 December 2011.

Since the FITs scheme started it has been successful in encouraging people up and down the country to get involved in local, clean green energy generation. Over 100,000 homes now generate their own electricity, and this is just the start of a move towards a far more decentralised local energy economy—an economy in which homes, businesses and communities are empowered to generate their own energy, and in which low-carbon innovation helps sustain green jobs at a critical time for our economy. A sustainable FITs scheme has an essential role in delivering that vision.

However, the green economy does not exist in a vacuum and it is important, particularly in the current climate, that our approach to public subsidy is responsible and results in the widest possible deployment. To date, solar PV has been by far the most popular technology with consumers. We know that the costs of an average PV system have fallen by at least 30% since the FITs scheme started (and we are aware of reports that the global costs of PV modules have fallen by as much as 70% since 2008). This is resulting in returns for investors in solar PV that are simply not sustainable and, without action, could result in the spending envelope for the scheme rapidly being breached.

Today's consultation document therefore focuses on addressing the budgetary problem and proposes reducing the tariffs for solar PV. Full details of the proposals are set out in the consultation document. The headline is that we are proposing that the generation tariff for PV installations with a total installed capacity of 4kW or less will be reduced to 21p/kWh, which our modelling indicates should deliver around a 4.5% rate of return. We are also proposing reductions to the generation tariffs for PV installations above that level and up to 250kW. These changes are vital if we are to ensure a lasting FITs scheme.

We are proposing that the new generation tariffs should apply from 1 April 2012 to all new solar PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after an earlier "reference date" which we propose should be 12 December 2011. Installations which become eligible for FITs before the reference date will not be affected and will continue to be eligible for the current generation tariffs.

The consultation also seeks views on two other changes to the FITs scheme for solar PV. First, the introduction from 1 April 2012 of new multi-installation tariff rates for aggregated solar PV schemes. These are schemes where a single individual or organisation owns or receives FIT payments from more than one PV installation, located on different sites.

A final but crucial proposal in this package is to strengthen the link between FITs and energy efficiency by introducing a new energy efficiency requirement for FITs for solar PV. The new requirement would apply to all new solar PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 1 April 2012 which are attached or wired to provide electricity to a building. If the building does not meet the energy efficiency requirement the installation would receive a lower FITs rate of 9p/kWh.

This consultation is the first of two on the comprehensive review of FITs that was announced at the start of the year. We will be publishing a separate consultation around the end of 2011 which will consider other aspects of the scheme including the tariffs for other FIT technologies. It will also consider proposals to make the FITs scheme more intelligent and responsive to change, improving the system that we inherited from the previous Administration to remove the need for stop start reviews and provide greater transparency, longevity and certainty to the industry.

HEALTH

Winterbourne View

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I promised to update the House about ongoing activity in relation to Winterbourne View private hospital and other facilities for people with learning disabilities.

Since I announced that Winterbourne View had closed and that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had published its compliance report on Winterbourne View on 18 July, the CQC has inspected another 23 Castlebeck Care services in England. Its inspection reports were published on 28 July and are available on the CQC website at www.cqc.org.uk. While half of these services were compliant with safety and quality requirements, the CQC had more serious concerns about four locations and has taken further action in relation to these. Two of these homes, Rose Villa and Arden Vale, closed in August.

In June, CQC announced a programme of unannounced inspections of services for people with learning disabilities following the abuse uncovered at Winterbourne View. CQC has now begun this programme of inspections of 150 hospitals and care homes which is looking at a sample of services for people with learning disabilities similar to those provided at Winterbourne View.

The CQC inspection programme will assess how well people with learning disabilities experience effective, safe and appropriate care, treatment and support that meets their needs and protects their rights; and whether they are protected from abuse. As at 24 October, inspectors had visited 27 locations and are in the process of considering the evidence.

As in the case of CQC's review of the 23 Castlebeck services, where CQC finds that a service is failing to meet the safety and quality requirements, it has powers to take appropriate action which include demanding improvements, issuing a formal warning notice or in the most serious cases closing down a service.

CQC will publish reports for each location setting out its findings and a national overview in spring 2012. A second phase of the review will use the learning from phase one to look at a sample of other registered services covering alternative models of provision for people with learning disabilities.

The results of the CQC inspections programme will feed into the wider Department of Health review of the lessons from Winterbourne View. We are still gathering evidence from the serious case review and the NHS serious untoward incident review, and taking the views of organisations and individuals on how services for people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour can be improved.

While these reviews and inspections are ongoing we are taking action to address emerging issues. For example, CQC have amended their whistle-blowing policy. Where issues for local management are highlighted in the NHS review, they will be developing actions plans to deal with this.

Ministers will publish and report to Parliament on the Government's response to their findings.

I will continue to update the House on further developments.

JUSTICE

European Account Preservation Order

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> The Government have today decided not to opt in to the European Commission's proposed regulation creating a European Account Preservation Order to facilitate cross-border debt recovery in civil and commercial matters.
>
> The aim of the Commission's proposal is to establish a self-standing European procedure for a protective measure to freeze the bank accounts of debtors in cross-border cases. The Government welcome the Commission's objective. It supports measures which make it easier for both businesses and citizens to resolve disputes and enforce judgments across borders. Many of those who responded to the Government's recent consultation on this proposal also welcomed its aims and agreed with the Commission that a procedure which made it easier for claimants to take protective measures in cross-border cases would be useful to both individuals and businesses in helping them to recover debts.
>
> However, the consultation also revealed a number of significant problems, in particular a widespread concern that there was a lack of adequate safeguards for defendants. Issues highlighted included that the threshold for obtaining an order was too low, that there is no requirement for the claimant to provide any security to compensate a defendant for losses suffered from the wrongful grant of an order, and that there should be more discretion for courts when deciding whether to issue an order or the amount for which it should be granted.
>
> Given the apparent ease with which an order might be obtained fears were expressed about the possible dangers posed to companies which were in the process of restructuring or rescue where the freezing of a bank account could undermine the rescue and make insolvency more likely.
>
> Concerns were also raised about the burdens the proposal is likely to place on both the Government and banks, in particular through the provisions of access to information on bank accounts.
>
> Although the Government have decided that the UK should not opt in to the proposal now, it intends to participate fully in the negotiations with the hope that sufficient changes will be made to enable a post-adoption opt in.

Deaths of Service Personnel Overseas

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest of our quarterly statements to the House giving details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We remain deeply grateful to all of our service personnel who have served, or are now serving, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We wish once more to express our sincere condolences to the families of those service personnel who have given their lives for their country in connection with the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in particular the six service personnel who have died since our last statement. Their families, and all the bereaved families, will remain in our thoughts.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, the Oxfordshire coroner, and other coroners in England and Wales. This statement gives the position at 21 October 2011.

To supplement this statement I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses, outlining the status of all cases and showing the date of death in each case. The tables also provide information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held.

Our Departments will continue working closely together to improve our processes. We will continue the Government's support for coroners who are conducting inquests into operational deaths, and we are grateful to them and their staff for their dedicated work. We wish to express our thanks to all those who provide support and information, both throughout the inquest process and afterwards.

Since October 2007 both Departments have provided additional resources for operational inquests. These resources have been provided to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, Mr David Ridley, as prior to 1 September 2011 repatriation of service personnel took place at RAF Lyneham. These measures have been provided to ensure that there is not a backlog of operational inquests. As I confirmed in the last statement, we are also providing additional resources to the Oxfordshire coroner, Mr Nicholas Gardiner, as repatriation ceremonies for those killed on operations overseas now take place at RAF Brize Norton, within his district.

CURRENT STATUS OF INQUESTS

Since the last statement there have been 18 inquests into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A total of 498 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 15 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In three further cases, no formal inquest was held. In two of these cases the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident. In the third case, where the serviceman died of his injuries in Scotland, it was decided not to hold a fatal accident inquiry.

OPEN INQUESTS

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

There are currently 61 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan and one inquest is yet to be opened. Eighteen of these involve deaths in the last six months. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has retained 18 of the remaining open inquests, and 34 are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Hearing dates have been set in 12 cases.

There is one remaining open inquest into deaths from operations in Iraq.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

Nine inquests remain to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. Five hearing dates have been set. The remaining four cases will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to inform the House of progress with the remaining inquests.

PRIME MINISTER

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth, Australia, which took place from 28 to 30 October. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Ministers of State (Lord Howell and Lord Green) also attended.

Her Majesty the Queen opened the meeting in her role as Head of the Commonwealth.

The Government believe strongly in the relevance of the Commonwealth and its networks, and the role that it can play in global issues of the day. It is unique in that it brings together a diverse range of countries, economies, and a predominantly young population looking to the future. In our programme for government, we expressed commitment to strengthen the Commonwealth to promote democratic values, development and prosperity.

The UK strongly supported the work of the eminent persons group (EPG) and the Commonwealth ministerial action group (CMAG) to make the Commonwealth more effective. Leaders adopted a series of reforms, the most significant in recent Commonwealth history, to ensure the organisation can better protect its core democratic values, and retain its credibility on the global stage. This included agreement on CMAG reform and to have a Commonwealth charter. Thirty of the 106 recommendations of the EPG were adopted at Perth. Discussions of the others will continue, and Foreign Ministers will meet again during 2012 to conclude these discussions.

Leaders welcomed Rwanda to its first summit as a full Commonwealth member and noted South Sudan's application for membership. Ongoing interest in membership further demonstrates the continued relevance of the Commonwealth and its role supporting democratic development in members and applicant countries. In this regard, leaders urged the interim Government of Fiji, currently suspended from the Commonwealth, to restore democracy without further delay, respect human rights and uphold the rule of law. Leaders also looked forward to the conditions being created for the return of

Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth and encouraged the parties to implement the global political agreement faithfully and effectively.

Leaders noted the threat that climate change poses to security, prosperity, and economic and social development and committed to advocacy leading to legally binding outcomes at the UNFCCC conference in Durban and beyond. They also urged the G20 to take the necessary steps to address current economic instability and to take concrete steps to put open trade, jobs, social protection and economic development at the heart of the recovery.

To mark Her Majesty's diamond jubilee, and as a gift to the Commonwealth people, Leaders welcomed the establishment of a Queen Elizabeth diamond jubilee trust. This will support charitable projects and organisations across the Commonwealth, focusing on areas such as tackling curable diseases, promotion of all forms of education and culture, and other Commonwealth priorities. It will be funded by private donations and voluntary contributions from Governments.

To strengthen the Commonwealth's ability to meet the development needs of member states, leaders agreed the Perth declaration on food security principles and discussed the inherent development challenges facing small, vulnerable states.

I believe that the outcomes achieved in Perth will help reinvigorate this unique organisation. The Commonwealth can help contribute to the UK's foreign policy and trade objectives not just through the intergovernmental links, but also through its networks of civil society and professional associations. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a speech to the Commonwealth people's forum, made clear the UK's desire to see homosexuality decriminalised and the death penalty abolished across the Commonwealth. Lord Howell and Lord Green both addressed the biggest Commonwealth business forum to date, which will lead to increased intra-Commonwealth trade, and trade with the UK. Ministers also engaged with participants of the Commonwealth youth forum—tomorrow's leaders and the future of the Commonwealth.

Leaders noted the decision made in 2009 that Sri Lanka would host the 2013 summit, Mauritius in 2015, and welcomed Malaysia's bid to host in 2019. As host of CHOGM, we shall look to Sri Lanka to demonstrate its commitment to upholding Commonwealth values of good governance and human rights. A key part of this will be addressing long standing issues around accountability and reconciliation after the war.

Copies of the concluding communiqué and the reports of the eminent persons group and the Commonwealth ministerial action group have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Separately at Perth, the 16 Commonwealth realms agreed in principle that we should modernise the Act of Settlement with regard to the rules of royal succession. This will set in motion a historic process to end the system of male preference primogeniture and the provision that anyone who marries a Roman Catholic would be ineligible to succeed to the Crown. A copy of the agreed wording will also be placed in the Libraries.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 November 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Skills Funding Agency

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): I would like to inform Parliament that the Government are today announcing a review of the status of the chief executive of skills funding and the Skills Funding Agency—the body which supports him in carrying out his statutory duties.

The review is consistent with the Cabinet Office public bodies review programme, and reflects the requirement placed on all Government Departments to undertake a regular review of their key delivery bodies, and the Government's ongoing commitment to radically increase the transparency and accountability of all public services.

I will be writing today to the further education and skills sector and to key stakeholders more widely about the review; and can confirm that both the Skills Funding Agency and wider stakeholders will be fully engaged in the review process, while meeting the core principles set by Cabinet Office of ensuring that any wider consultation is proportionate and provides clear value for money.

It is vital that we have the right structures in place to tackle the very real challenges that lie ahead; and this review reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to building on the strength of the further education system, while ensuring rigorous accountability structures are in place.

We will make a further announcement about the outcome of the review in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Democracy

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): The Government have today launched a consultation, "What can a mayor do for your city?" We are asking local communities to contribute their views on the powers that directly elected mayors should be able to exercise in the 12 largest English cities outside London.

The Government are committed to helping all of England's cities thrive. Experience from London, and from other towns and cities in Europe and beyond, shows that directly elected mayors can provide strong and visible leadership, increase accountability for local decisions, enhance their city's prestige and maximise the potential for local economic growth.

In the coalition agreement, the Government committed to creating directly elected mayors in the 12 largest English cities outside London, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors.

Leicester has already elected a city mayor. The Government are now planning referendums in 11 other cities—Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wakefield—to take place in May 2012. Where local people vote in favour, these cities will move to a directly elected mayor.

The Government start from the assumption that each of our cities is unique, facing challenges and opportunities shaped by its history and location. We think city mayors will be able to do their job best when their remit and powers properly match local circumstances.

Rather than simply seeking to impose a "one size fits all" approach, then, we think cities themselves should have a strong say over how mayors can help their city thrive. With this consultation, we are inviting contributions from the people who live and work in the 12 cities on which powers they believe a city mayor, where elected, should be able to exercise on their behalf.

This approach is in line with the Government's commitment to localism, and to the ongoing success of England's cities.

I am placing copies of the consultation document in the Library of the House. The Government are inviting responses by 3 January 2012.

EDUCATION

Junior ISAs (Looked-after Children)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): In March of this year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government would provide support for the long-term savings of looked-after children through junior ISAs. Today, the day that junior ISAs first become available, I can announce that around 55,000 looked-after children across the UK will benefit from a new junior ISA in 2012, with an initial payment of £200 from the Government.

I am particularly grateful for the support of Barnardo's and Action for Children, with whom we have worked closely to ensure we get the best scheme for as many vulnerable children as possible. The scheme will provide a junior ISA for every child looked-after for 12 months or more and who did not previously benefit from a child trust fund (CTF). This includes those born after the CTF scheme was stopped, as well as older children who were born before the CTF scheme was created.

I am also pleased that, as for previous support to looked-after children under CTFs, this new scheme will apply equally to looked-after children across the UK. I am grateful to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in Scotland, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services in Wales and the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland for their support for our work. Officials at the Department for Education will continue to work with officials in those administrations as we put the scheme into practice.

The Government want to ensure that looked-after children receive the best possible support and gain the same experience as any other young person. These savings will help them when they reach 18 and are facing difficult choices as they start out in the adult world. I am confident that, when combined with financial education, holding a real financial asset in a savings account will encourage these young people to learn about how to manage their money well.

These children are some of the most vulnerable in our society and we are committed to investing in them so they can thrive. I want these savings to be worth much more than £200 by the child's 18th birthday and I hope individuals and organisations will also want to use these accounts to contribute and invest in the futures of these vulnerable children.

The Department for Education will shortly be launching a tender exercise to select the best partners to operate the scheme. Potential partners will need to demonstrate not just that they can make the right investment choices for looked-after children, but that they can raise additional funding from voluntary contributions. A key priority will be the ability to operate the scheme with low administrative costs. This will give generous individuals and organisations the opportunity to channel financial support directly to those who are most in need, helping looked-after children take the chances that may otherwise be denied them.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Universal Credit

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): Today the Department for Work and Pensions announces its strategy for moving 12 million working-age benefit and credit recipients on to universal credit by 2017.

Universal credit is intended to provide a streamlined welfare system which makes the financial advantages of taking work or increasing hours clear to claimants. We recognise that the move from one welfare system to another needs to be carefully managed to ensure social outcomes are maximised and no one is left without support.

The transition from the old benefit system to universal credit will therefore take place in three phases over four years, ending in 2017 with around 7.7 million households receiving more support to find more work and be more self-sufficient.

Between October 2013 and April 2014, 500,000 new claimants will receive universal credit in place of jobseekers allowance, employment support allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit and child tax credit. At the same time a further 500,000 existing claimants (and their partners and dependants) will also move on to universal credit as and when their circumstances change significantly, such as when they find work or when a child is born.

From April 2014 the second phase will give priority to households who will benefit most from the transition, such as those working tax credit claimants who currently work a small number of hours a week but could work more hours with the support that universal credit brings. Overall 3.5 million existing claimants (and their partners and dependents) will be transferred on to universal credit during this second phase.

The last and final phase, which begins at the end of 2015 and runs through to the end of 2017, will see around 3 million households being transferred to universal credit by local authority boundary. This phase will have the flexibility to respond to the circumstances of particular local authorities as they change and will focus on safeguarding financial support, such as housing benefit payments, to claimants as the old benefit system winds down.

The Department for Work and Pensions will continue to work with HMRC and local authorities to settle on a precise timing schedule of the move to universal credit. Once agreed, the schedule will be kept under regular review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 November 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Partnerships (Religious Premises)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The Government are committed to advancing equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people and to ensuring freedom of religion or belief for all people.

To further both of these aims, the Government are committed to removing the legal barrier to civil partnerships being registered on the religious premises of those faith groups who choose to allow this to happen. This will be done by implementing section 202 of the Equality Act 2010. This is a permissive measure; section 202 states that there will be no obligation on faith groups to host civil partnerships.

The Government published a consultation document on 31 March providing detailed proposals on the scheme to be introduced that would allow this to happen. Today, we are publishing an analysis of the consultation responses and the Government response, confirming our intention for the scheme to allow religious premises to apply to be approved for civil partnership registrations to be in place by the end of this year.

This document contains the final economic and equality impact assessments and the proposed regulations which will be made and laid in the first half of November.

This is an important step forward, though focuses only on this specific measure and does not set out any further proposals for change, such as with equal civil marriage, which the Government have committed to consulting on in March next year.

A copy of the document will be placed in the House Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homes and Communities Agency Regulation Committee

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I wish to inform Parliament that the Department for Communities and Local Government has obtained approval for an advance from the Contingencies Fund to allow the recruitment and appointment of committee members for the reformed Homes and Communities Agency's Regulation Committee, ahead of Royal Assent of the Localism Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

Bringing forward this expenditure through a Contingencies Fund advance will enable efficiency savings to be achieved and provide significant reductions in public spending.

The Regulation Committee will focus on the economic regulation of the social housing sector. Economic regulation provides investors with necessary assurance that the sector is properly governed and financially viable.

Parliamentary approval for resources of £20,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for the Department for Communities and Local Government. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £20,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

DEFENCE

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): The then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 351, that a submarine design, powered by a new generation of nuclear propulsion system, the Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) 3, had been selected and the Initial Gate investment approved.

Historically the Ministry of Defence has operated an onshore nuclear submarine reactor prototype at the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) site in Caithness, in support of in-service nuclear submarines and the development of new reactor core designs. Confidence in the technology is such that it is not now necessary to undertake reactor core prototyping activities; instead the PWR 3 reactor core design will be supported through an extensive test and validation programme using computational modelling, analogy from current reactor designs and testing of individual components and systems.

The Vulcan NRTE site will therefore not be required to support reactor core prototyping activity when the current series of PWR2 reactor core prototype tests are complete in 2015. Options for the future of the site are currently being assessed; these range from placing the prototype facilities into care and maintenance while retaining the site's strategic capabilities, to decommissioning the site and returning it to Nuclear Decommissioning Authority ownership.

We will work closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Scottish Government during this process.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 November 2011

EDUCATION

Education Capital

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I would like to update the House on my Department's work to address the shortage in pupil places being experienced by some local authorities, and reduce the level of prescription and unnecessary guidance which are a feature of the school premises regulations and hamper the development of new schools.

I would also like to inform members of my final decisions on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in the six authorities which mounted judicial reviews.

In July, I announced that an extra £500 million would be made available, this year, to local authorities experiencing the greatest need in managing shortfalls in providing pupil places. This additional funding has been made available from efficiencies and savings identified in BSF projects that are continuing.

I can announce today that over 100 local authorities will receive a share of the funding. The allocations have been calculated using figures provided to the Department for Education by local authorities through the 2011 School Capacity and Forecast Information returns. By using the most up-to-date information available we are making sure the savings identified are being targeted to local authorities experiencing the most severe need.

I understand the economic situation means difficult choices need to be made about how to direct funding but I urge local authorities to target resources at managing the shortfalls in pupil places wherever they are most needed, and taking into account the views of parents. This is especially pertinent in light of the data released last week by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showing that previous projections for population growth were underestimated and by 2020 there will be around 21% more primary age children than in 2010.

Today's extra funding means that in 2011-12, a total of £1.3 billion will have been allocated to fund additional school places. The Government already announced an allocation of £800 million funding in December 2010, twice the previous annual level of support. The nature of this funding, (capital grant which is not ring fenced) the nature of the projects it will fund, (mainly small primary school projects) and the readiness of local authorities to get projects under way, means that this money will be spent efficiently. Further, I expect much of it to benefit small and medium-sized enterprises and to stimulate local economic activity across the country.

I would like to reassure those local authorities whose needs were not as severe as others—and which, therefore, did not receive a share of this extra £500 million—that future capital allocations for basic need and maintenance pressures will be announced later in the year.

I am also launching a 12-week consultation on the revision of school premises regulations. The consultation document sets out how the Government intend to deregulate and end the confusion and unnecessary bureaucracy surrounding the current requirements. A copy of the consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am proposing to make the requirements for independent and maintained schools identical and to reduce the overall number of regulations. Some regulations are duplicated in other pieces of legislation or are simply unnecessary and I propose to remove these regulations completely. I also think that other regulations can be simplified to remove unnecessary bureaucracy and make requirements proportionate, without reducing the quality of buildings. I would welcome views on my proposals, further details of which can be found on the Department for Education's website.

Finally, today I am announcing my decision on the schools that are subject to the BSF judicial review proceedings, brought by Luton borough council; Nottingham city council; Waltham Forest London borough council; Newham London borough council; Kent county council; and Sandwell metropolitan borough council.

I announced what I was minded to do in July and have received further representations from each of the claimant authorities. I considered these carefully but I am not persuaded that I should depart from the decision which I announced I was minded to take. My final decision is, therefore, not to fund the schools in the claim but, instead, to fund, in capital grant, the value of the claimant authorities' proven contractual liabilities.

Further information on all aspects of today's announcements, including a complete list of local authorities receiving extra funding for shortfalls in pupil places, can be found on the Department for Education's website at www.education.gov.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Farming Regulation Task Force Report

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am pleased to announce that the Government published the interim response to the farming regulation taskforce report today.

I established the taskforce in June 2010, asking its members to advise the Government on a new approach to regulation in England, from the point of view of a farmer or food processor, and on how best to achieve a risk-based system of enforcement while maintaining high environmental, welfare and safety standards. Following an extensive review, the taskforce published its report on 17 May 2011.

The taskforce made over 200 recommendations, covering the full range of the regulatory landscape that affects farming. The key messages are that DEFRA, its agencies and delivery partners need to establish an entirely new approach to regulation, strengthen ties with the farming and food processing industry and work in partnership to achieve outcomes, and move to a risk-based approach to regulation, rewarding good practice with less frequent inspection.

The report was bold and ambitious. Government will also be bold and ambitious in finding solutions. I am pleased to announce that the interim response is very positive about our progress to date. It sets out a narrative of the work that is being done, and highlights examples of how the Department and its delivery agents have already started to apply the principles the taskforce set out. We are particularly keen to take forward the principle of earned recognition and to make progress on simplifying and integrating environmental messages for farmers and we are working in partnership with delivery bodies and industry organisations to develop these ideas. I intend to respond positively to as many of the recommendations as possible and will give full details of this, setting out a clear agenda for implementation, in our final response, which is due to be published in the new year.

The interim response is now available on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk

Thames Tunnel

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): On 7 September 2010, I outlined in a written statement, *Official Report*, column 9WS the Government's support for Thames Water's plans for a tunnel to reduce the amount of untreated waste water being discharged into the River Thames. I presented an estimate of the costs and impact on customers' bills, which I said we would continue to scrutinise with Ofwat to ensure value for money. I said DEFRA would update the 2007 impact assessment and that I was minded to consider development consent for the tunnel under the regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects established by the Planning Act 2008.

My statement today reaffirms the Government's support for Thames Water's plans and reports on progress we have made since my last update. In particular, it provides an updated estimate for the overall cost and the likely completion date for a project of this size and complexity.

The need to upgrade the sewerage system in London which in places is running out of capacity even in dry weather, and for a solution to the resulting environmental challenges in the Thames Tideway remains persuasive. I will today place in the Libraries of both Houses a paper "Creating a River Thames fit for our future" summarising the strategic and economic case for the Thames tunnel. This builds on the impact assessment produced in 2007. It explains why we continue to believe that a tunnel represents the preferred solution for dealing with the untreated sewage that is polluting the River Thames.

Last year I reported the project costs for the Thames tunnel as £3.6 billion at 2008 prices. This was the cost of the project reported at what is known as the P80 level—that is, there is an 80% probability the project costs will be less than this figure based on probability modelling of cost risks. This figure excluded financing costs. Since then development of the construction plans has continued, more allowance has been made for a later completion date and in response to the first phase of public consultation by Thames Water, greater use of brown-field sites and river transport have been allowed for. The cost base has also been updated to 2011 prices and on this basis the estimates for the project costs are now £4.1 billion. They include £0.9 billion of risk allowance and optimism bias. These estimates have been examined by independent advisers on behalf of Ofwat and confirmed to reflect best practice in the industry. At this stage some uncertainties remain and the estimates will continue to be refined going forward.

Last year I also reported that the estimated average peak impact on annual customer bills was likely to be £60 to £65 in 2008 prices. This figure was based on the then estimate of project costs plus modelling of likely financing costs. Since then, in addition to the revised project cost outlined above, Thames Water has with Ofwat and my Department, made progress in developing the delivery route, risk management processes, and likely financing costs. They have also developed the modelling of the likely impacts on customer bills. This gives a central range for an average maximum annual customer bill impact of £70 to £80 at 2011 prices. The considerably uncertainty in this range reflects the impact that financing costs will have on bills and the difficulty in estimating these for a project of this nature and duration. Relatively small changes in the cost of capital for the project could have a significant impact on bills.

I understand the concern that Thames Water customers may have over this increase in their bills. DEFRA, with Ofwat, IUK, EA and Treasury, has been working closely with Thames Water to ensure that the engineering costs are minimised through value engineering, and that the project is delivered efficiently with a structure and financing mechanism that delivers value for money for customers. We will continue to do this and to ensure that there are no better value solutions that meet the need.

Financing a tunnel of this size at a cost that is value for money for customers is a challenge. The Government believe that the private sector can and should finance this project but accept that there are some risks that are not likely to be borne by the private sector at an acceptable cost. It is willing in principle to provide contingent financial support for exceptional project risks where this offers best value for money for customers and taxpayers. However, I will want to be assured that when offering this contingent support taxpayers interests remain a top priority and that the taxpayer is appropriately protected by measures that minimise the likelihood and impact of these exceptional risks.

On planning, we have completed a 12-week public consultation on proposed secondary legislation (Section 14 Order) which would classify proposed major sewer projects such as the Thames tunnel as nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). We are currently analysing responses. It will then undergo parliamentary scrutiny and an affirmative approval process. Following such approval, I would anticipate that a Section 14 Order could come into effect in the spring of 2012.

We have revised the draft waste water national policy statement in the light of responses to the public consultation and recommendations from the EFRA Committee. The NPS is to be used by the Infrastructure Planning Commission, or its successor, to guide its examination of development consent applications for waste water projects of national significance. We anticipate that the NPS will be laid before Parliament for approval later this year.

I am very conscious of the impact construction of the tunnel will have on local communities. Thames Water completed their first phase of consultation on the preferred route earlier this year and have amended some of their proposals in response. Tomorrow they launch the phase 2 consultation, which will be further opportunity for people to let their views be known. This consultation is with a view to submitting a planning application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (or its successor body) in autumn 2012 and construction starting by 2016.

The initial time line for completion of the tunnel was 2020. However, as the parties have worked through the issues relating to planning, financing, procurement and regulation of the project it has become clear while construction time remains at six years, the 2020 date is unrealistic. On the basis of what is now known, and depending on the choices made as we go forward, completion of the construction of the tunnel is now expected to be between 2022 and 2023. We continue with Thames Water to explore how we can minimise the overall time scale.

I propose to provide a further update when we have agreed a delivery route with Thames Water and before they apply for development consent in the second half of 2012.

UK Forestry Standard

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I informed the House in February, *Official Report*, column 791W, that I expected the revised edition of the UK Forestry Standard to be published later this year.

I am delighted to say that we have published the new Standard and its suite of supporting guidelines today. Copies are available on the Forestry Commission's website at: www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs.

The documents, prepared by the Forestry Commission and Northern Ireland Forest Service, set out how we must manage our forests in a truly sustainable way. They form the practice code for forest management and detail the conditions that must be met when felling trees, carrying out woodland operations, and receiving grants. They apply to all woodland, irrespective of who owns or manages it.

The Standard ensures that international agreements and conventions on areas such as sustainable forest management, climate change, biodiversity and the protection of water resources are robustly applied here in the UK.

For forest managers, the new Standard encapsulates all the various requirements of sustainable forest management and spells out what they mean in practice. For the first time it includes principles of forest management for carbon benefits, which is a UK Government carbon plan commitment. The UKFS also provides the basis for the new woodland carbon code that gives assurance that woodland projects for carbon capture provide the benefits claimed for them.

For many years the UK has been at the forefront of international moves to protect the world's forests. The new Standard provides an excellent and up-to-date example of our approach. It is most appropriate that we are doing this in international year of forests.

The Standard will help us strike that vital balance between the economic, social and environmental benefits of forestry. To that end, I am pleased to note the forestry regulation taskforce's support of the Standard as the cornerstone of long-term sustainable forest management.

I want to thank all the forestry and environmental organisations who have worked with us to bring the Standard together.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Kimberley Process (Zimbabwe Diamonds)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): On 1 November the Kimberley Process (KP) plenary meeting in Kinshasa reached an agreement to ensure credible and effective safeguards and monitoring of the diamond mines in the Marange region of Zimbabwe. A copy of the agreement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Following almost a year of intensive discussions amongst KP participants, a robust but fair agreement has been reached which only allows exports from mining sites in the Marange region deemed to be compliant with KP standards. Exports from other mining sites can only take place once those sites are judged to be KP compliant by independent experts. This agreement establishes a credible independent monitoring mechanism, including a role for civil society and independent experts, to ensure ongoing compliance with KP standards and to prevent non-compliant Marange diamonds from being traded under the KP. The agreement also commits Zimbabwe to take action to bring all mining in Marange into compliance with the KP.

Allowing rough diamond exports only from KP-compliant mines in Marange ensures that the credibility of the KP is maintained and guards against the risk of non-compliant mines exporting to international markets because of the lack of any agreement. In addition it means that there is some transparency of revenue flows. This will help the Zimbabwean Finance Ministry to collect tax and royalties owed to it, and thereby ensure the financial benefits of the diamond sales can reach the Zimbabwean people.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately to any future developments. As the agreement makes clear, the KP will constantly review progress towards KP compliance in the Marange region. We urge Zimbabwe to make every effort to overcome the outstanding shortcomings so that next year the KP plenary will be in a position to declare Marange fully compliant with KP minimum standards. If this is not the case, the KP plenary will have to discuss whether to renew the present agreement or alternatively what other measures are appropriate to address any remaining obstacles.

The Kimberley Process remains an important conflict prevention mechanism. This agreement upholds the credibility of the KP and signals the determination of all Kimberley Process participants, including Zimbabwe, to work together to uphold Kimberley Process principles and standards in the future.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Terrorism Legislation (Anderson Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce the publication today of the Government's response to Mr David Anderson QC's report on the operation in 2010 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, which will be laid before the House today.

I am grateful to David Anderson QC for his detailed report and I have considered his recommendations fully. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant Departments and agencies, I am pleased to lay my response to David Anderson's recommendations before the House today. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Justice and Home Affairs Council was held on the 27 and 28 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following items were discussed:

The Council began in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states). The Commission updated on the implementation of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), noting that progress remained in line with the previously agreed Council conclusions. The central system was still expected to go live in the first quarter of 2013. The second milestone test was planned for the second quarter of 2012. The Commission undertook to keep the Council informed.

Next the Commission congratulated member states on the successful rollout of the visa information system (VIS) to north Africa. The UK is not bound by the VIS regulation because it does not participate in the common visa element of the Schengen acquis.

The presidency, supported by the Commission, stressed the importance to local populations of the proposal to extend the local border traffic regulation to the whole of the Kaliningrad region and corresponding Polish oblasts. Insisting it would not create a precedent, they proposed the Council and Commission submit a declaration to the proposal reiterating this. The presidency concluded that a first reading deal could be reached with the European Parliament, whose Committee had accepted the proposal without amendments. The UK is not bound by this legislative proposal since it builds on that part of Schengen in which we do not participate.

The Commission presented its Communication on smart borders, which addressed the possibility of an entry-exit system (EES) and registered traveller programme (RTP) for the Schengen area. Before bringing out legislative proposals next year, they wished to secure the clear support of both member states and the European Parliament on the best way forward. The smart borders package would require time and investment and there were important data protection issues to address. Member states expressed broad support for the communication and highlighted the potential benefits for enhancing internal security, combating organised crime, identifying visa overstayers and reducing border crossing time for regular travellers. However, given the required investment. member states called for a thorough cost-benefit analysis before proceeding. The UK is excluded from these arrangements measures since it builds on that part of Schengen in which we do not participate.

Under AOB, France raised the increasing problem of itinerant crime and called for a debate at the next JHA Council.

The EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre For Drugs And Drug Addiction) presented the findings from its 2011 annual report on state of the drug problems in Europe, which will be published on the 15 November. Heroin and opiates remained at the heart of the problem. Commissioner Malmström welcomed the report and said that there was a need for further EU action in this area. Commissioner Reding then presented the Commission's new communication on "Towards a stronger European response to drugs". It offered a future legislative package and practical action to build a strong framework for combating illicit drugs. The Council also agreed the synthetic drugs pact. The UK welcomed the EMCDDA report and the Commission's communication. The UK also endorsed the views of delegations who had called for a civil approach to the confiscation of criminal assets and welcomed the presidency's focus on synthetic drugs, and in particular on precursors used to tackle these drugs.

The Commission provided an update on the negotiations with the United States regarding an EU-US agreement on data protection.

During a discussion on passenger name records (PNR) Commissioner Malmström noted that the European Parliament would vote on the EU-Australia agreement that day. She also reported that discussions with the US had reached an advanced stage, and a political understanding had been reached. Retention periods would be 15 years for terrorism and 10 years for other serious crime, where the latter would apply to crimes punishable by three years under US law. The "push" method would be the norm, but "pull" could be used in very limited cases. There would also be a reference to the EU-US data protection negotiations. The Commission added that on third country transfer they were considering a solution similar to the Australia agreement. The agreement now needed to be transformed into a legal text. They hoped to finalise this in the coming weeks. The UK supported the idea of an EU-US agreement, and was pleased that a political agreement had almost been reached. The UK supported the Commission's view that security and data protection could both be improved at the same time. PNR data were an absolutely vital tool in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and we should continue to co-operate with the US for the security of all our citizens.

The presidency invited Greece to update Ministers on progress with the Greek action plan (GAP) on asylum and migration management, on which there were some notable improvements: a reduction in the asylum backlog from 46,000 to 33,000; a rise to an average of 12% in international protection recognition rates and ongoing recruitment of operational staff. The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) referred to their operating plan for Greece, and provided an update on deployment of asylum support teams made up of experts from member states. Frontex gave a brief update on the areas in which they were also supporting the GAP. The conditions in detention centres were very troubling, and the Commission urged the Greek authorities to address the issues at the Greek—Turkish border as a priority. The Commission highlighted that the economic situation in Greece was well understood by member states, but the EU had made significant funding resources available; these resources had to be used. Others agreed. Finally, the Commission stated that co-operation with Turkey was vital, and that agreement with Turkey on readmission would not be forthcoming without a deal on visas and mobility. Greece said that EASO and Frontex, as well as member states, had provided pivotal support but noted that this was not a long term solution and Greece was dedicated to strengthening its own resources.

Discussions on the Greek action plan continued during a closed lunchtime session on wider issues of illegal migration and the impact of visa liberalisation, during which the UK stressed the importance of strong external borders, supporting those who had raised concerns about migration flows from the south-east and across the Mediterranean and about trafficking. A clear focus on upstream migration work in our dialogue with neighbouring regions and countries of origin was essential, while EU action, under the global approach to migration, needed to tackle the key drivers, namely economic instability and political insecurity. The UK also shared the concerns of others about the activities of organised criminal groups in facilitating immigration crime, noting that there were strong links here to the abuse of free movement rights. Forged documents were used to get around the rules and gain access to rights they would otherwise not be entitled to. It was wrong that criminals profited from free movement, while those who upheld its responsibilities suffered.

The presidency summarised the state of play on the asylum package: negotiations on procedures and reception conditions directives continued steadily at expert level; The European Parliament voted for adoption on the qualification directive, solutions for moving forward with Eurodac continued to be scoped; and an early warning and preparedness system continued to develop as a solution to unblocking the negotiations on Dublin. The latter proposal would be discussed in more detail at the forthcoming Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA). The Commission congratulated the presidency on the headway being made on the package, and encouraged the Council to continue to look for solutions, while remaining mindful of the views of the European Parliament.

The presidency noted political agreement had been reached on the outstanding issue of correlation tables relating to both the single permit directive and qualifications directive. The UK had not opted into either of these instruments.

The Commission presented their communication on integration of migrants, highlighting the importance of integration and recognising that responsibility for integration rested at a local level. The presidency noted that Council conclusions would be prepared on this issue for the December JHA Council, with work continuing under future presidencies. Cyprus said this would be a priority during its 2012 presidency and informed Ministers that they would organise a conference on integration.

The Commission introduced its communication on co-operation in the area of the JHA within the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Member states noted that clear actions should be in the roadmap which was being developed, co-operation between eastern partners and Eurojust should be further encouraged and the principle of the rule of law was vital to the Eastern Partnership. The presidency announced that on 4 November there would be a conference on the Prague process, which would take forward the Eastern Partnership.

Spain noted that ETA had ceased its campaign of violence. They thanked the EU for its support and noted that the UK had also helped. The Commission was keen to hear views on a possible EU terrorism finance tracking system (TFTS). The main question was whether we needed such a system. The EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator and Europol supported such a system, but it was noted that the EP was divided. Member states noted the need to ensure data protection given the current transfer of bulk data under the EU-US agreement, but expressed concerns about whether the proposal would be cost effective. In addition to the Commissions' proposals, one delegation wondered if the solution was rather to improve the EU-US agreement. The UK asked for more detail about the added value of the proposals and what the options and costs would look like. The Commission agreed to undertake an impact assessment and consult further with the EP before returning to the Council with proposals.

The justice day began with the Commission introducing its recently published proposal for a directive on minimum criminal offences and penalties for insider dealing and market manipulation. The aim of the proposal is to secure full implementation of legislation on financial services and protection for the financial markets. This directive accompanies a wider Commission proposal for a new regulation, introduced to create a stronger EU framework for tackling insider dealing and market manipulation. The UK noted the presentation.

Next the presidency provided an update on discussions in the Council on the directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest. This is the third measure on the roadmap to strengthen criminal procedural rights. The UK has not opted into this directive, at the initial stage of the negotiations, because the Government are of the view that the directive as published by the Commission is not proportionate and could have an adverse effect on our ability to investigate and prosecute offences effectively. The presidency reported that progress had been made on many aspects of the instrument, however further discussions are required in the working group in relation to the scope of the instrument and on the admissibility of evidence obtained in breach of or derogation from the rights in the directive. There was no discussion.

The presidency then held a discussion on the draft directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The UK and other member states supported the presidency's approach on clarifying the scope of victims' rights in relation to the role of victims in criminal proceedings and that the vulnerability of victims should be determined on a case by case basis. The presidency expressed the hope that a general approach could be agreed at the December JPIA Council.

The presidency then provided an update on the draft directive on combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography. This directive seeks to ensure that criminal activities to sexually exploit children, including misuse of the internet, are more fully covered than in the existing framework decision (2004). They reported that on 27 October the European Parliament had adopted the text agreed by the Council, following agreement between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission. The UK noted the update.

The presidency and Commission introduced the proposal on an EU common sales law. The Commission confirmed it would be an optional instrument sitting alongside national law that did not harmonise national systems. This was also discussed during the ministerial lunch, the presidency concluded they would analyse the proposal further.

During any other business the presidency informed the Council on the outcomes of the EU-Western Balkans ministerial forum held in Ohrid on 3-4 October and the EU-Russia Ministerial Permanent Partnership Council held in Warsaw on 10-11 October.

The Council also adopted a report on the application of the resolution which establishes the network for legislative cooperation between the ministries of justice of the European Union. The objective of the network is to promote better understanding of the laws of other member states, thus enhancing mutual trust and promoting the application of the principle of mutual recognition.

Police and Crime Commissioners Salaries

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I have received the Senior Salaries Review Body report and recommendations on police and crime commissioners pay.

On 20 January 2011 I wrote to the chair of the Senior Salaries Review Body requesting that he consider the role and functions of police and crime commissioners and make an independent recommendation to me as to what the SSRB considers to be a suitable salary, or salary range, for this new office. The report, which today I am placing in the House Library and is available to the general public through the Senior Salary Review Body's website, sets out clearly the important and powerful role that PCCs will play in delivering policing services from November next year when they will be first elected.

I am grateful for the work undertaken by the SSRB and will reflect on its advice and recommendations. The SSRB has recommended a salary scale for PCCs of £65,000 to £100,000 with each police force area within England and Wales being weighted against this scale. I intend to give this and the other recommendations thorough consideration and report my final decision in due course and in good time to allow potential candidates to be clear on what they can expect their salary to be.

PCCs are established in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 within each force area as powerful individuals, and charged with responsibility for the totality of policing within that area; each force area faces a huge range of policing and social challenges which vary from force area to force area and each PCC will seek to ensure that these challenges are met in the interests of the our local communities.

PCCs will need to be highly motivated, determined to deliver the best for the communities that they serve, and above all be focused on making our communities safe. How PCCs work with and interact with chief constables, police and crime panels and local partners will be crucial to achieving success.

The election of police and crime commissioners will further strengthen the relationship between the public and the police, and allow us to replace bureaucratic accountability to Whitehall with democratic accountability to local communities. As a result the police will have greater freedom and discretion to fight crime as they see fit within a rebalanced and strengthened governance structure. I am keen to ensure that suitable and proportionate remuneration is achieved for such a challenging and rewarding role.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St Helena

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): In my statement of 22 July 2010 I confirmed the Government's willingness to finance an airport for St Helena on condition that:

an acceptable contract price is achieved;

the risk of cost and time overruns after the award of the contract is addressed;

the airport design using engineered material arresting system (EMAS) is approved by air safety support international; and

the St Helena Government undertake to implement the reforms needed to open the island's economy to inward investment and increased tourism.

I am pleased to announce that these conditions have now been met. A design build and operate (DBO) contract for the St Helena airport will be signed with Basil Read (Pty) Ltd today.

The airport will end five centuries of isolation for this UK overseas territory, which to date has been accessible only by sea. It will provide its British population with the means to build a future which, in the long term, is expected to lead to financial self-sustainability and an end to UK budgetary aid. This vision of a more vibrant, self-sufficient territory would not be possible if we were to provide a replacement ship. Continued sea access as the only way to get to and from St Helena would consign the island to a bleak future of further emigration and economic decline.

The contract will be in the amount of £201.5 million for the design and construction of the airport, with an additional amount of up to £10 million in shared risk contingency, and £35.1 million for 10 years of operation. We are confident that both the negotiated price and the allocation of risk represent value for money for the British taxpayer. In the long run. and including the investment cost, the decision to proceed with the airport is expected to save money for the UK taxpayer.

The contract represents a better deal for the taxpayer than that negotiated in 2008, a saving of more than 20% in real terms, taking into account inflation and the value of the pound.

TRANSPORT

Historic Vehicles (MOT Exemption)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation on a proposal to exempt vehicles of historic interest (vehicles manufactured prior to 1 January 1960) in Great Britain (GB) from the statutory MOT test, as allowed under article 4(2) of the EU Directive 2009/40/EC.

The EU directive of the European Parliament and of the Council, Chapter II, Exceptions, Article 4 states:

> "Member States may, after consulting the Commission, exclude from the scope of this Directive, or subject to special provisions, certain vehicles operated or used in exceptional conditions and vehicles which are never, or hardly ever, used on public highways, including vehicles of historic interest which were manufactured before 1 January 1960 or which are temporarily withdrawn from circulation. Member States may, after consulting the Commission, set their own testing standards for vehicles considered to be of historic interest.'"

Sections 45 to 48 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 provide the legislative basis for MOT testing. The purpose of the MOT test is to ensure that cars, other light vehicles (including some light goods vehicles), private buses and motorcycles over a prescribed age are checked at least once a year to see that they comply with key roadworthiness and environmental requirements in the Road Vehicle Construction and Use Regulations 1986 and the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989 (both as amended).

While it is important to ensure that vehicles are safe to use on the highway, it is also important to ensure that regulations imposed are not excessive. Currently, both the age and the categories of vehicles requiring the MOT test in GB go further than the EU directive on roadworthiness test 2009/40/EC, which only subjects post-1960 registered vehicles to a compulsory roadworthiness test and does not require motorcycles of any age to do a statutory roadworthiness test.

The Government believe that the proposed exemption will reduce regulatory burden on owners of historic vehicles, meet its reducing regulation agenda and the desire to remove unnecessary burdens. It will also bring the age of vehicles requiring the statutory MOT test in line with the Goods Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations 1988, which already exempts unladen pre-1960 manufactured heavy goods vehicles from the roadworthiness test.

Two thirds of pre-1960 licensed vehicles (vehicles manufactured prior to 1 January 1960) are driven less than 500 miles each year. This is significantly less than the 9,000 miles driven on average by all licensed vehicles.

While the pre-1960 licensed vehicles made up about 0.6% of the approximately 35.2 million licensed vehicles in GB in 2010, they were involved in just 0.03% of road casualties and accidents. The pre-1960 licensed vehicles are largely well maintained by their owners. The initial MOT test failure rate for these vehicles in 2009 was less than 10%, while the initial MOT test failure rate for post-1960 licensed vehicles was over 30%.

The purpose of the consultation is to invite views on proposals to exempt vehicles of historic interest from the statutory MOT test in GB. In addition to no change, the consultation offers three options based on vehicle manufactured date—that is, it seeks respondents' views on whether the Government should exempt from the statutory MOT test pre-1960, pre-1945 or pre-1920 manufactured vehicles.

The consultation also seeks respondents' views (in all three options) on whether all vehicle categories and vehicles used for commercial purposes should be included in the exemption review.

The consultation will run until 26 January 2012. Copies of the consultation document have been placed on the Library of the House. Further copies are available on the DFT website at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-27. Depending on comments received and the Department's response, amendments may be made to regulations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Personal Independence Payment

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for people of working age from April 2013. The coalition Government are committed to supporting disabled people to lead independent lives and exercise choice and control. Personal independence payment will focus support to those individuals experiencing the greatest barriers to living an independent life, while ensuring the benefit remains sustainable.

Parliamentary approval for resource and capital of £0.65 billion for this new service has been sought in the main estimate 2011-12 for the Department for Work and Pensions. Pending approval of the Welfare Reform Bill, urgent expenditure estimated at £5,014,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund. The advance will be repaid at the earliest opportunity following Royal Assent to the Welfare Reform Bill.

Universal Credit

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): The Department for Work and Pensions has obtained approval for an advance from the contingencies fund of £46 million to allow for the continued development of IT for universal credit before Royal Assent. This is a second advance; an earlier advance of £18 million was approved for the same purpose in April.

Parliamentary approval for resource and capital of £80 million for this new service has been sought in the main estimate 2011-12 for the Department of Work and Pensions. Pending approval of the Welfare Reform Bill, urgent expenditure estimated at £46 million will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

The universal credit programme has successfully completed the second stage of IT delivery on time. This is a major achievement given the demanding timetable and relatively new "agile" way of working. The second advance will allow the programme to continue to work to its current design and development timetable and enable continuity of third-party supplier engagement.

This will support an earlier move to the new simplified benefit than could be achieved without it and achieve better value for money by enabling a more rapid take-up of online claims with lower operational delivery costs.

The amount covered by the advance is part of the proposed £2 billion investment in universal credit agreed at the time of the spending review. The advance will be repaid at the earliest opportunity following Royal Assent.

Petition

Tuesday 25 October 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Great Harwood Household Waste Recycling Centre (Lancashire)

The Petition of residents of Great Harwood, Lancashire and others,

Declares that following Lancashire County Council's budget review and report into household waste recycling centres, there are now plans to close further recycling centres across the county; that it has been announced that Great Harwood is one of the sites that has been identified to close; and that the Petitioners believe that this will inevitably decrease recycling and increase fly-tipping in Great Harwood and the surrounding areas of Lancashire

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to write to Lancashire County Council to ask them to reconsider the proposal to shut the Great Harwood Household Waste Recycling Centre and to keep it open, as it is a vital service to the town and surrounding areas.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Graham Jones, Official Report,* 14 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 1146 .]

[P000962]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

All waste disposal authorities are required by section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) to provide places where residents of the area can deposit their household waste free of charge.

The Government believe that it is for local authorities to decide how best to meet their legal obligations, taking into account local needs, economic efficiencies and the need to protect the environment. This includes determining the provision and location of individual household waste recycling centres. We also recognise that people feel strongly about their waste services and we want to make it easier for people to do the right thing, with local authorities providing both the kerbside waste collection service and household waste recycling centres to enable people to do this.

While we believe that waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop local solutions that meet the needs and priorities of their communities we will work with councils to support them in delivering this. For example, we believe that better procurement and joint working can improve the efficiency of waste management while improving the frontline service for the public in an affordable and practical manner. DEFRA is working with iESE (Improvement and Efficiency South East) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) to provide support and advice to local authorities on procurement, partnership working, efficiency checks and cost-effective waste services.

The Government believe that it is better to reward householders for doing the right thing with their waste than to penalise them for doing the wrong thing. It is therefore encouraging councils to reward people who recycle their waste. We are interested in approaches that reward or recognise either individuals or communities and those that can apply in different situations and for a range of collection systems and housing types. DEFRA has provided funding of £500,000 this financial year to 16 projects run by both local authorities and community organisations to introduce or trial new schemes that reward or recognise people or communities for adopting positive behaviours towards managing their waste.

In addition, the Government have committed to removing the disproportionate criminal sanctions currently available for local authorities to use against householders who fail to present their waste for collection correctly and to reduce the maximum level of fines that can be issued under the current Fixed Penalty Notice regime. At the same time we recognise that powers must be available to tackle serious waste crime and we are working with local authorities and the Environment Agency to make it easier to enforce fly-tipping and stop persistent offenders.

Petition

Thursday 27 October 2011

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Khalsa Academy (Slough)

The Humble Petition of the Slough Sikh Education Trust and members of the Sikh community within Slough and South Buckinghamshire.

Sheweth,

That the application of the Slough Sikh Education Trust to build and open a new Sikh Secondary Faith School, "Khalsa Academy" in September 2012, was submitted in June 2011; that the Academy is to be sited next to the existing successful Sikh primary school; and that the trustees have, over the past year, exhausted all other feasible site options in the Slough area.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your honourable House urges the Government to approve the application of the Slough Sikh Education Trust to build and open the Khalsa Academy in September 2012; and to support their endeavours to build the school on land near the existing Sikh Primary School.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray &c.—*[Presented by Fiona Mactaggart, Official Report,* 29 June 2011; Vol. 530, c. 1074 .*]*

[P000933]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Department received 281 applications to open a Free School as part of the 2012 application round. This included an application from the Slough Sikh Education Trust (SSET) to establish Khalsa Academy in 2012.

All groups provided information to a set deadline—as set out in the "How to apply" form. This required detailed information on the vision and ethos of the proposed schools, their educational plan, evidence of parental demand for the provision being offered, site options which represents best value for money and the capacity and capability of the groups to deliver the project. Groups that met the Government's minimum requirements were judged against each other and scored on the strength of their proposals. Shortlisted applicants were called for an interview to discuss aspects of their proposal. A list of applications which were successful following the interviews is available on the DfE website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/b00197715/free-schools-2012

The Department provides feedback to all unsuccessful applicants on how their application could be strengthened should they wish to re-apply in a future Free School application round.

Petition

Wednesday 2 November 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banking and Bankruptcy

The Petition of Elspeth Rushbrook,

Declares that the petitioner believes that the current rules regarding banking and bankruptcy need urgently revising; that since the downturn, there is very strong negative public feeling towards financial institutions; that there is much anger at the bonuses and that public money has bailed out highly paid bankers of a crisis which we are suffering and paying for in many senses, while banks create debts for private customers as well as the country as a whole.

Further declares that banks extract huge fees from thousands of personal customers for going only a little over a limit, and these fees have no cap; fees of up to £100 per month are taken automatically and there are cases where these have made those in hardship have four figure fees while investigations go on; that this can lead to loss of banking facilities and demands for further money from banks; that the High Court test case was a very drawn out way of looking at this issue, which is clearly deeply unbalanced; that the High Court decision was entirely in the bank's favour, and the furore around the unsuccessful case shows how strong popular feeling is about this matter; that banks make over £I billion each year through these fees, on top of their other profits.

Further declares that bankruptcy laws have been tightened without public consultation or even widespread knowledge; most websites on debt do NOT mention changes to bankruptcy laws, including the Government's; in this time, debt has become very common; that debt is seen as bad but it is often the only way to improve circumstances, such as setting up business or paying for an education; that debt is also a result of materialism and consumerist society; that Government cuts, especially to legal aid and for medical treatment, make this worse.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that bankruptcy laws have been put in place by those who are well off; that the previous £50 free spending money a month was tight—but the current £10 for three years shows no understanding of modern life or poverty; that £10 per family member shows no understanding of single people and expects the burden and shame of bankruptcy to be spread across a whole household; and that for a person already under pressure, to not have any kind of relief asks for other problems, such as depression, as £10 a month means a single coffee a week, is not enough to buy a meal out, to allow you to leave your home town, to rent a DVD each week, for a television licence; that bankrupts may have to sell anything of value; that the law does not understand how things like DVD players, music and especially instruments, or computer games are vital; that whatever our financial circumstances, we all need a richer life, and after and during all the indignity and stress of debt, having pleasures and passions taken away is wrong and unfair; that being without a bank account is very hard in today's society—it is necessary to have one in order to receive benefits; that anything extra the insolvent earns during those three years goes to the creditor, meaning that doing better financially gives bankrupts no relief and no benefit; that insolvents are even asked to pay to become insolvent, and are publically shamed by having their bankruptcy published.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that our whole ethos is built up on a contractual debt, blame and punishment that enters into every part of our existence; banks and law unfairly control much of our society; the recurrence of recessions and other problems suggest that our current systems are not the way, and invite us to urgently look again—not try to continue much as before.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that one should not have to pay to declare oneself bankrupt; that bankruptcy should last and have effect for only one year; that there should be no public publication and shaming; that the allowable personal budget should return to £50 per month, and to rise appropriately with inflation; that bankruptcy should not affect members of a household or family, only the persons directly filing for it; that creditors should not be able to take extra monies earned in this time; that there should be a system in place to allow bank accounts for bankrupts without further fees; that there should be no ban on public offices or other roles; that personal bankruptcy should not stop a self-employed business and vice versa; that this is the livelihood and will mean no money for the person filing as bankrupt; that creditors should not be able to force borrowers into bankruptcy, particularly when the creditors have created the debt, such as with banking fees or aggressive lending.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that student loans of all kinds should be covered by bankruptcy; that the 2004 ban should be repealed as should the March 2011 legislation.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that having to attend a court hearing in respect of bankruptcy should be stopped—this is extra stress and cost (to attend) and quite often humiliation.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that information from debt advice centres should also be looked at, as many of these encourage insolvency as an easy way of freedom, and do not present the facts properly.

Further declares that the petitioner believes that the law should protect genuine people from large preying creditors without encouraging non-payment from reckless borrowers.

Further declares that bailiffs should be stopped immediately; that it is unsupportable to be harassed in your home for goods not related to the creditor's claims.

Further declares that banking fees should be abolished immediately; that such fees are not necessary, as they are only partly as a deterrent; that if one goes over one's account's limit, the account should simply not allow further withdrawals until further funds are put in; that banks should be banned immediately from following up fees with demands to further repay overdrafts; that where in the past, unreasonable fees have been charged and or hardship has been caused, these fees should be returned to customers.

Further declares that the blame, debt and contract system of our society needs to be revisited and debate begun and implemented about a fairer way forward.

The petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to urgently review these rules and the ethos behind them.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Presented,* 11 August 2011; *Official Report,* Vol. 531, c. 13P .]

[P000955]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

Thank you for your wide-ranging petition regarding the current rules for banking and bankruptcy. The coalition Government take these issues very seriously, which is why we are committed in the Coalition Agreement to curb unsustainable lending and strengthen consumer protections, particularly for the most vulnerable. In particular, the five new rights for credit card customers mean they will have greater influence over their cards and it will be easier for them to compare and move to a better deal; the Consumer Credit Directive gives consumers an absolute right to withdraw from any credit agreement within 14 days; and the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT's) Irresponsible Lending Guidance provides greater clarity on what constitutes irresponsible lending.

We issued a Call for Evidence on "Managing Borrowing and dealing with debt" in October 2010, covering consumer credit and personal insolvency issues. We published a summary of responses in July 2011. The evidence shows that there have been significant developments in the market in recent years. As part of the OFT's work on personal current accounts, banks have committed to introduce measures to improve the transparency of unarranged overdraft charges and, through the Lending Code, they have agreed to act sympathetically, positively and proactively if they have reason to believe that one of their customers is in financial difficulty. Many banks have also revised their charging structures. However, there are still serious concerns about how charges affect consumers, particularly where charges may not be clear or transparent. The Government are working with current account providers to determine the most appropriate course of action to deliver further improvements to consumers. We will regulate to address consumer detriment if suitable alternatives cannot be agreed. Ministers will report back later in the year to announce the Government position on these and other credit aspects of the Review.

The Government recognise that legitimate creditors are entitled to recover what they are owed and that enforcement action may be necessary if a debtor fails to pay or negotiate a reasonable repayment plan. Bailiffs and enforcement officers are authorised to remove and sell a person's possessions in order to pay money to a person or organisation. Detailed guidance on their responsibilities, how they work and how to make a complaint about them is available. Debtors should not be able to avoid their financial responsibilities by ignoring the debt or failing to pay, which is why the Government believe that it is essential for a consumer facing financial difficulties to be able to seek early advice as to possible courses of action. The Government have asked the Money Advice Service to review how debt advice could be more effectively delivered in the future, building on the expertise of specialist providers, with a view to putting in place a new delivery model in 2013, which will ensure that a holistic approach is taken so that people have the support to understand and evaluate their options for debt remedy.

Bankruptcy is one way for a person to deal with debts they cannot pay. The bankruptcy proceedings free them from overwhelming debts so they can make a fresh start, and make sure their assets are shared out fairly among creditors. It is Government policy that the costs of administering bankruptcy cases should be self-funding rather than a cost to the taxpayer. Consequently, the fee regime must be set to recover costs and this is achieved both by charging a deposit on those petitioning for bankruptcy and by realising appropriate assets (including a person's net income) before any return may be made to creditors. When dealing with bankruptcy cases, it is reasonable in balancing bankrupt and creditor interests that any income above that needed to meet the reasonable domestic needs of the bankrupt and his/her family should be made available to cover the costs of administering the bankruptcy and make returns to creditors. A contribution would never be sought which did not allow reasonable domestic needs to be met. Student loans are not included as bankruptcy debts because they are made on non-commercial terms, including low interest rates and repayment being contingent on later income. In addition, student loans are paid out of and subsidised by public funds.

It is clear that people see benefits in removing the court from the bankruptcy process where it is unnecessary for a court to take a decision. We are currently exploring options to streamline the route into bankruptcy, with appropriate safeguards, and ensure that the court's focus is on dispute resolution.

Debt relief orders offer a low cost route to debt relief where the person has low assets and liabilities. Changes were introduced in April 2011 to widen access to the debt relief order regime by ensuring that a person's future pension right is not counted as an asset, which could keep a person trapped in debt when they have nothing to offer their creditors.

We are aware of the concern that there should be greater access for bankrupts to basic bank accounts and we plan shortly to seek views on how to improve that access.

The petitioner may be interested to note that further advice for those concerned about specific charges imposed by a bank is available from the Money Advice Service (http://yourmoney.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/products/loans/tvpes/bank overdraft.html) and the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) (http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/faq/bank-charges.html). In relation to bailiffs. Leaflet EX345 (About Bailiffs and Enforcement Officers) is available from the Court Form Finder on the Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Petition

Thursday 3 November 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Port of Falmouth Masterplan

The Petition of the residents of Falmouth,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the dredging of Falmouth Harbour should be permitted to go ahead so as to enable the implementation of the Port of Falmouth Masterplan which is essential to the future prosperity of Falmouth.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that the Marine Management Organisation strikes the appropriate balance between environmental protection and social and economic development, with particular regard to the Port of Falmouth Masterplan including the dredging of Falmouth Harbour.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sarah Newton, Official Report,* 13 September 2011; Vol. 532, c. 1008.*]*

[P000958]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government recognise the important role that ports, such as Falmouth, play in the economy and social heritage of their local communities. A Port Masterplan, prepared in consultation between operators, customers and neighbours, should describe a vision for a port's future, helping to guide a port's development in sympathy with the environment.

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is required to manage its activities with the objective of making a contribution to sustainable development, in a consistent manner and taking account of all relevant facts and matters. The MMO must consider specific statutory guidance in this regard. Draft guidance was laid before the House in March last year, before being published in its current version, in October. The guidance states the five high-level marine objectives which are: achieving a sustainable marine economy; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; using sound science responsibly, promoting good governance and living within environmental limits.

The MMO must have regard to the high-level marine objectives when considering and making decisions about how best to integrate economic, environmental and social considerations. The MMO should seek, wherever possible, to deliver integrated solutions that are underpinned by all five principles. Its decisions should be impartial and based on best available evidence, taking into account the potential benefits and anticipated adverse impacts (which may be economic, environmental and/or social). It will also need to ensure its decision complies with statutory requirements under UK and EU legislation (including the Habitats Directive) and is consistent with our international obligations.

It would be inappropriate for me to interfere in the decisions of the MMO in individual cases. However, I am confident that the MMO will properly weigh all considerations, before coming to its final decision on the Falmouth dredging proposals.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 24 October 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arab States: Islam

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of sectarian divisions between Sunni and Shia Muslims on political reform and democratisation within Arab states in the Gulf. [76588]

Alistair Burt: I am concerned about increasing sectarian tensions in the Gulf. We are monitoring the situation across the Gulf. The UK supports reform efforts throughout the region that include all sections of society.

Bahrain: Human Rights

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Bahrain on the subject of human rights. [76338]

Alistair Burt: We have repeatedly raised the issue of human rights with the Bahraini Government and will continue to do so to ensure all human rights obligations are being met. Political freedoms, equal access to justice and the rule of law must all be upheld; these do not run contrary to security, but are integral to long-term stability.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces in Egypt to comply with the Camp David accords. [75788]

Alistair Burt: We have made clear publicly and privately with Egyptian interlocutors that we welcome statements made since February 2011, reaffirming Egypt's commitment to its international treaty obligations including the Camp David Accords. The accords are a cornerstone of regional peace and we encourage both sides to abide by their terms. Our priority remains a comprehensive negotiated solution to the middle east peace process.

Iceland: Debts

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions are available to the Government in its pursuit of the repayment of debts owed to UK businesses, local authorities and individuals by the Icelandic government. [75383]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

Retail depositors of Icelandic banks have received their funds in full via the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (acting in part as the agent for HM Treasury). The claims of other creditors are being considered under Icelandic insolvency law. That process is ongoing.

Libya: Human Rights

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with leaders of the Libyan National Transitional Council on the treatment of *(a)* civilians generally and *(b)* persons of sub-Saharan origin. [76377]

Alistair Burt: During his recent visit to Tripoli, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised reports about the treatment of detainees, including those of sub-Saharan origin, with National Transitional Council (NTC) Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil, and urged him to take action to prevent abuses of human rights. The NTC have stressed their commitment to uphold human rights law and have already begun investigations into these reports.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department is providing to the Libyan authorities on the security situation in that country. [73271]

Mr Hague: The UK is working closely with the National Transitional Council on a number of security issues in Libya, including providing technical advice through a senior police adviser deployed to Libya, equipment for the police and assistance in collecting and securing Man-Portable Air Defense Systems.

Middle East: Natural Gas

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the likelihood of the restoration of gas supplies from Egypt to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [75790]

Alistair Burt: We have received no reports on the likelihood of the restoration of gas supplies from Egypt to Israel.

Middle East: Pipelines

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Egyptian counterpart the recent bombings of the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline; and if he will make a statement. [75789]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed the recent bombings of the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline with his counterpart. However, we remain concerned about recent security incidents in the Sinai, and we welcome the statement by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces on 12 February and subsequently that Egypt would abide by all its regional and international treaty obligations.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government can provide to the governments of *(a)* Egypt and *(b)* Israel in respect of reopening the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline. [75791]

Alistair Burt: We have not offered any assistance to the Egyptian or Israeli Governments in respect of reopening the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline, and have no current plans to do so. However, we will continue to express our concern about the impact of security incidents on stability in the region.

Palestinians: Prisoners

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on hunger strikes by Palestinians in prison in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [75814]

Alistair Burt: We are aware that Palestinian prisoners have been on hunger strike since 27 September. This was suspended for three days while awaiting confirmation that the Israeli Prison Service will officially end its policy on punitive isolation. Other demands, including education, seem to have been met as part of the prisoner exchange deal on 18 October.

The UK is continuing to monitor closely the situation with regard to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. Palestinian prisoners should have access to a fair trial, and Israel should ensure that it treats detainees in accordance with international law. We continue to raise our concerns with the Israeli authorities and to issue statements when appropriate.

Palestinians: Recognition of States

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress at the UN on the application by the Palestinian Authority for recognition as a state. [76142]

Alistair Burt: President Abbas submitted the Palestinian application for full membership of the UN on 23 September. No vote is imminent in the Security Council, while the membership committee considers its recommendation. So far we have not been presented with a detailed proposal on which to take a position. Whether the committee returns the issue to the Security Council, or whether President Abbas decides to turn to the General Assembly, the UK will use its vote in a way which increases the likelihood of a return to meaningful negotiations.

The UK's position on recognition of a Palestinian state is clear: a Palestinian state is a legitimate goal, and the best way of achieving this is through a comprehensive agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The UK has deliberately reserved its position on the question of recognition of Palestinian statehood while we continue to urge all parties back to talks. Withholding our position in this way, along with other European partners, maintains the pressure on both sides to show the flexibility needed to enable a return to negotiations.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the state of *(a)* emergency and *(b)* anti-terrorism laws in Sri Lanka. [76146]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the end of the state of emergency in Sri Lanka, but it remains unclear what this means in practice. The Sri Lankan Government have amended the Prevention of Terrorism Act to replace some of the powers that lapsed. We are especially concerned about the practice of prolonged detention without charge.

I raised these concerns when I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 23 September in New York. Our high commission in Colombo will continue to monitor the situation and to pursue this issue with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the European Commission to conduct an inquiry into whether the local Saharawi population has benefited from the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. [76128]

Alistair Burt: During the negotiations for a new Protocol to the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership agreement, which began in December 2010, we requested evidence from the Commission on the socio-economic impact of the agreement in Western Sahara. Morocco submitted information to the Commission but we were unable to determine from that information whether or not the people of Western Sahara had benefited. We continue to press for more information to be made available.

WALES

Adam Werritty

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she met Mr Adam Werritty on official occasions. [76365]

Mrs Gillan: No such meetings have taken place.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75526]

Mr David Jones: Nothing. In May 2010, the Wales Office introduced a ban on all first class travel. As a result of that policy we cut costs by 53% and saved over £91,000 in 2010-11.

Offences Against Children

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on legislation on the smacking of children in Wales. [75769]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) and I have regular discussions with Welsh Government Ministers on a wide range of issues but we have not discussed legislation on the smacking of children in Wales. No legislation is being proposed at this stage and the Welsh Government have confirmed that it will not be bringing forward any legislation on this matter before the next Assembly election.

PRIME MINISTER

Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Prime Minister what volunteering he has undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76231]

The Prime Minister: I have committed to the One Day Challenge and I have undertaken work with various volunteering organisations, including Street League and The Challenge Network.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Prime Minister if he will order a review of Government document security. [76439]

The Prime Minister: Guidance on Government document security is available on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/security-policy-framework

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential effect on animal welfare of the commercial breeding of dogs and cats. [72017]

Mr Paice: Under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 all breeders of dogs and cats are required to breed dogs and cats in a way that takes account of welfare needs and does not cause an animal to suffer. The effectiveness of this Act has recently been reviewed and the findings submitted to the Efra Select Committee. In addition, under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, commercial breeding establishments have to be licensed.

Cheese

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the recent growth of the cheese industry on the economy. [75075]

Mr Paice: UK cheese production increased by 5% in 2010 compared with 2009 and has continued to rise during 2011. The total value of the cheese market in Great Britain to December 2010 was about £2.5 billion.

Eggs: Origin Marking

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements her Department has in place to enable the tracing of eggs and egg products back to the farm of origin for the purposes of ensuring compliance with European directives. [74521]

Mr Paice: We are in the process of drawing up an enforcement strategy on how to deal with illegal eggs and egg products from non-complaint producers. I recently met with industry representatives and retailers to discuss enforcement of the cage ban and on how best to take things forward.

I also met with the commissioner on 20 October to discuss his proposals for action against member states who do not comply on 31 December.

The British Retail Consortium has publically declared that Britain's leading food retailers are supporting UK egg producers and that there will be no eggs from Europe which fail to meet the welfare standards on their shelves or in their own-brand products.

Meat: Exports and Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking to increase exports of meat; [75037]

(2) whether she has any plans to discuss with foreign governments the lifting of restrictions on the importation of British offal products. [75048]

Mr Paice: The Government are taking a number of steps to increase exports of food, including meat and offal.

The UK Trade and Industry strategy and DEFRA's business plan both contain commitments. During his recent visit to Russia, the Prime Minister personally placed discussions about lamb and beef exports high on the agenda, illustrating the priority the Government attach to the issue.

DEFRA works closely with a number of partners to identify and target resources on key market negotiations about animal and public health issues for countries outside the European Union. These partners include industry and foreign governments as well as other Government Departments in the UK. I am delighted to say that exports of meat and meat products rose in the first half of 2011 by 15%.

The rising figure is the comparison with the same period in 2010.

Sheep: Tagging

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she is having with her EU counterparts to ensure that farmers are not financially penalised due to technological failures of electronic identification for sheep. [73527]

Mr Paice: I have had a number of discussions with EU Commissioner Dalli about our concerns over the ability of electronic reading equipment to capture individual information on every animal sent to central point recording centres (CPRCs), particularly where this could impact on keepers' single farm payments.

The commission has since responded to a UK proposal for some flexibility with regard to cross compliance requirements relating to a keeper's farm records where sheep are electronically read at a CPRC. I am currently considering how to proceed in England.

The requirements for identification and traceability of sheep are EU obligations, but administration and implementation in their territories is an issue for the devolved Administrations.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Suffolk

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average response time was for an ambulance to an emergency call-out in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Mid-Suffolk district council area, (c) Babergh district council area and *(d)* Suffolk Coastal district council area in each year since 1997; [75618]

(2) how many ambulances in *(a)* Babergh district council area, *(b)* Suffolk Coastal district council area and *(c)* Mid-Suffolk district council area responded to emergency call-outs within (i) eight and (ii) 19 minutes in each year since 1997. [75619]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on average ambulance response times and the number of ambulances that have responded to emergency calls in specific locations is not collected centrally.

Data on performance against ambulance response time targets is collected at ambulance trust level only and is published annually by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care in the statistical bulletin "Ambulance Services England". These documents are available on the NHS Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

The areas referred to within the question fall within East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Prior to 2006 East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust was made up of the following ambulance trusts:

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust

Essex Ambulance NHS Trust

East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust.

Data prior to 2004-05 was published by the Department. This data is available back to 1998 on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/reports-publications/

Arthritis: Physiotherapy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that rheumatoid arthritis-related physiotherapy services are not disproportionately affected by plans to make efficiency savings in the NHS; [75869]

(2) if he will assess the *(a)* level of uptake and *(b)* efficacy of referral practice of rheumatoid arthritis-related physiotherapy in England; and if he will make a statement. [75870]

Paul Burstow: There are no plans to carry out a central assessment of referral practice to physiotherapy in England. It is for local national health service organisations to make their own decisions about routes of referral for physiotherapy, based on which route is clinically appropriate and of value to the health care system and local community.

Some organisations may include self-referral in their access routes. To help local organisations in making decisions about self-referral, the Department has collaborated with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy to pilot and evaluate self-referral. The pilots identified a number of benefits including earlier presentation and supporting self-care by empowering patients to be more actively involved in managing their condition.

Information about this project can be found in the "Self-referral pilots to musculoskeletal physiotherapy and the implications for improving access to other AHP services". This document has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_116358.pdf

The NHS has been asked to make up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014-15 while simultaneously improving the quality of services it provides in order to meet rising demand resulting from an ageing population and new developments in technology and drugs. Local NHS organisations are best placed to decide on how to meet this challenge, according to local circumstances and priorities.

There have been a number of initiatives to improve access to physiotherapy and other allied health professional services including delivering services more efficiently. The Allied Health Professional Service Improvement Project demonstrated in a range of services, including physiotherapy, how service redesign can improve access and clinical outcomes, and release cost-savings back into the system. Details about this project can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126840

Breast Cancer: Health Education

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise the awareness of women of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. [76090]

Paul Burstow: Improving public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and encouraging people to visit their general practitioner (GP) when they have symptoms is a key ambition of "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January. Last year we provided £9 million to support 59 local awareness campaigns to raise awareness of breast, bowel and lung cancer and early indications that there has been a positive response to the campaigns.

In June this year we announced that we would be providing £2.5 million to support a further 18 local awareness campaigns, seven of which will seek to raise awareness of breast cancer in women over 70. Survival rates for women with breast cancer in this age range are poorer than in other comparable countries and this is why we are focusing on this area.

More generally, we encourage all women to be breast aware. The Department has worked with health professionals, patient groups and the voluntary sector to develop a set of key messages for breast cancer that include the signs and symptoms of the disease. These are available on the NHS Choices website and we encourage charities and other stakeholders to use them widely in awareness raising activities. The Department has also published "Be Breast Aware", a leaflet which advises women to know what changes to look for and report them to their GP as quickly as possible.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75630]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has spent £12,063.85 on advertising job vacancies since May 2010.

Health Professions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure health and wellbeing boards take account of the experience and expertise of allied health professionals in their work; and if he will make a statement. [75620]

Anne Milton: Beyond the minimum membership set out in the Health and Social Care Bill, local authorities and health and wellbeing boards will be able to invite other members with particular skills and expertise, including representatives of the allied health professions.

The membership of health and wellbeing boards should be determined locally. Too much prescription would prevent local membership from being determined in a way that reflects local needs and priorities.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are available to armed forces personnel to assist them in dealing with alcohol abuse or other alcohol-related problems following their discharge from service. [75928]

Mr Simon Burns: My hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report, 'Fighting Fit', made a number of recommendations in relation to access to mental health services. The Department of Health, working with the NHS armed forces networks, Combat Stress and others have put in place a number of initiatives aimed at improving access to mental health services for veterans. These include a 24-hour helpline through Combat Stress (working with Rethink), and an increase in the number of mental health professionals conducting veterans outreach, assessment and referral work (also with Combat Stress), set up a pilot of Big White Wall—an early intervention service for service personnel, veterans and families and launched an e-learning package for general practitioners with the Royal College of General Practitioners. In all of these areas, alcohol misuse is a key issue.

In addition to these veteran specific initiatives, most, areas of England have access to the full range of alcohol treatment services including advice and information, counselling and therapy, medical detoxification (both in the community and in-patient when necessary), and rehabilitation services (both residential and in the community day treatment services), as defined in the Department's best practice guidance 'Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers' published in June 2006. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Most areas operate a "stepped care" model where new patients are assessed, and initially receive the least intensive or prolonged intervention considered suitable for the level of need and complexity identified.

Health Services: Respiratory System

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of ventilation machines and related equipment for patients with muscle-wasting diseases who experience respiratory difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [75930]

Paul Burstow: Local health bodies have responsibility for ensuring adequate provision of ventilation machines and other health services are made available to those living with neuromuscular conditions.

Health: Finance

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department plans to use in distributing public health funding to local authorities as a consequence of his proposals to transfer responsibility for public health. [76101]

Anne Milton: The distribution of funding to local authorities for their planned new public health responsibilities will allow them to improve the health of their population and to reduce health inequalities. The independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has been asked to develop the details of a formula to meet this objective. ACRA's criteria include transparency, technical robustness and compatibility with objectives.

Hospitals: Admissions

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [75929]

Paul Burstow: Information on the cost of unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions is not collected centrally.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions there were to the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust in each year since 1997. [76440]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of emergency admissions by finished admission episode in Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust, 2002-03 to 2009-10 and Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust and Mid Sussex NHS Trust, 1997-98 to 2001-02 is in the following table.

	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	*Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust*	*Mid Sussex NHS Trust*
2009-10	41,844	—	—
2008-09	44,970	—	—
2007-08	38,893	—	—
2006-07	33,815	—	—
2005-06	29,994	—	—
2004-05	31,335	—	—
2003-04	30,244	—	—
2002-03	25,406	—	—
2001-02	—	19,831	6,976
2000-01	—	20,023	7,524
1999-2000	—	19,931	8,100
1998-99	—	19,930	8,133
1997-98	—	19,905	7,365

Notes:

1. In 2002-03, Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust and Mid Sussex NHS Trust merged to become Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

2. Figures relating to years 1998-99 to present have been taken from the published annual publications available on:

http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk

The figures provided relating to 1997-98 were not previously published.

3. It should be noted that these data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

4. Activity includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

5. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Emergency admissions include:

Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider

Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)

Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau

Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic

Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider

6. Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, '-X' is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using this data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

7. Assessing growth through time: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Life Expectancy: Television

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects of television viewing on life expectancy. [75935]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned research specifically on the potential effects of television viewing on life expectancy.

In 2009, the Department set up an expert group to review existing evidence on the impact of sedentary behaviour, including screen time, on overweight and obesity, and the impact on health and activity levels. The group has drawn up recommendations on limiting sedentary behaviour for all ages. These are reflected in Start Active, Stay Active, a report on physical activity for health from the four home countries' chief medical officers published in July 2011. The expert group submitted its report on 26 March 2010 and this is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128225.pdf

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of universities on research into mindfulness-based therapies; and what research projects his Department has funded into mindfulness-based therapies in the last three years. [75920]

Paul Burstow: The Department has had no recent discussions with representatives of universities specifically on research into mindfulness-based therapies. Research projects and research training awards directly funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in the last three years relating to mindfulness-based therapies are listed in the following table.

Title	*Start date*	*End date*	*Institution*
A qualitative synthesis of patient experiences of mindfulness-based interventions followed by a feasibility study of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and/or asthma and co-morbid symptoms of anxiety and/or depression	1 November 2009	31 October 2012	University of Bristol
Preventing depressive relapse in NHS practice through mindfulness-based cognitive therapy	1 January 2010	31 March 2014	University of Exeter
A qualitative (feasibility) study of mindfulness-based stress reduction for the treatment of fatigue, anxiety and depression in women with metastatic breast cancer	14 June 2010	13 December 2012	University of Southampton

In addition, an NIHR-funded project on group mindfulness-based therapy for distressing voices, led by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, started in October 2011.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* anti depressant drugs and *(b)* mindfulness-based therapies to treat prisoner stress and mental illnesses in each of the last three years. [75917]

Paul Burstow: The Department has incurred no such cost for anti-depressants and mindfulness-based therapies to treat prisoners. Pharmaceutical and psychological therapies are provided by primary care trusts (PCTs) and are available for all who require these within a PCTs catchment area, including for prisoner. Each PCT is responsible for determining the type of services offered within its catchment area and the Department does not collect information on how much they spend on these services.

In February this year the Department launched its mental health strategy "No Health Without Mental Health". One of the commitments made in the strategy is to complete the roll out of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme and prisoners will benefit from this. The IAPT programme has produced good practice guidance on treating offenders, "Offenders: Positive Practice Guide", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, which can also be found at:

www.iapt.nmhdu.org.uk/silo/files/offenders-positive-practice-guide.pdf

Midwives

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the duties of local supervising authority midwifery officers will be provided after the abolition of strategic health authorities. [75908]

Anne Milton: The Local Supervising Authority (LSA) function is currently hosted in strategic health authorities (SHAs) where accountability is held by the chief executives with the SHA Director of Nursing as the executive lead. Each LSA appoints a practising midwife as the local supervising midwifery officer (LSAMO) who has responsibility for carrying out the LSAs functions. The LSA function and the role of LSAMOs in the future is being considered as part of transitional plans to deliver a reformed national health service, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill.

Pharmacy: Patient Choice Schemes

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote patient choice in respect of pharmacy and dispensary provision. [75621]

Mr Simon Burns: We fully support patients having a choice of pharmaceutical services providers. Patients can take their prescriptions to any national health service pharmacy they wish to have their prescriptions dispensed.

However, in more remote and rural areas NHS pharmacies may not always be viable. That is why, to ensure adequate access to NHS dispensing services, primary care trusts may authorise general practitioners to dispense to patients provided certain criteria set out in regulations are met. Under these regulations, such doctors provide a more restricted range of pharmaceutical services than pharmacies.

Postnatal Depression

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance is available to women identified as having postnatal depression. [76108]

Anne Milton: Midwives, health visitors, general practitioners, and other health professionals involved in the care of women following childbirth are trained to help women at risk or suffering from post-natal depression. Specialist Perinatal Psychiatric Services and Specialist Mother and Baby Psychiatric Units are available for seriously ill women whose needs cannot be met by primary care.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of postnatal depression were diagnosed in each of the last three years. [76206]

Anne Milton: The majority of women diagnosed with postnatal depression will be treated in primary care. Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of women with post-natal depression.

SCOTLAND

Clinical Trials

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* NHS Scotland on joint working with the Scottish government on clinical trials. [76443]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers have had no discussions with the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland on this issue.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75715]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I meet regularly with a range of social enterprises, charities and private sector businesses. Information on ministerial meetings is published quarterly at:

www.data.gov.uk

Health Research Authority

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* NHS Scotland on the formation of the proposed Health Research Authority for England. [76442]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers have had no discussions with the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland on this issue.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Policy: Representations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the big society bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75068]

Mr Swire: I am the Minister responsible for advancing the big society agenda in Northern Ireland.

The big society capital group has been a matter of discussion at meetings I have held with Peter Robinson MLA, First Minister for Northern Ireland, Arlene Foster MLA, Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment and Nelson McCausland MLA, Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development. I have also held discussions with Sir Ronald Cohen, now appointed interim non-executive chairman of the big society capital group and Nick O'Donoghue the first CEO of the group. I have also had discussions on this subject with Seamus McAleavey, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. This was also considered at a seminar that I hosted in Hillsborough castle on 27 June that addressed this and other big society issues and which was attended by over 60 individuals representing the third sector in Northern Ireland.

At the seminar on the big society, which I hosted in June, there was consideration of the role that volunteers can play in our society. I also received written representations concerning how best to mark volunteers week in Northern Ireland.

My noble Friend the Lord Freud has engaged with Northern Ireland Ministers on the matter of the Work programme and other aspects of welfare reform during his recent visits to Northern Ireland.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75713]

Mr Paterson: In the course of my duties, I meet with representatives of social enterprises, charities and public sector business of all sizes.

Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be obtained via the Northern Ireland Office website at:

www.nio.gov.uk/index/nio-publication

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which charities have held receptions at No. 11 Downing street in the last 16 months. [74766]

Miss Chloe Smith: *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The charities that have held receptions at No. 11 in the last 16 months are listed below:

John Smith Memorial Trust (July 2010)
Starlight's Children's Charity Christmas Party (December 2010)
Evison Foundation (February 2011)
Beat—Beating Eating Disorders (February 2011)
Diana Awards—Young people who inspire the lives of others (February 2011)
Times/Sternberg Active Life Awards for older people in Britain (February 2011)
Breast Cancer Campaign (March 2011)
Community Foundation for Lancashire (May 2011)
Tommy's—Let's talk baby (May 2011)
Anne Frank (May 2011)
WAVE Trust—Ending child abuse to stop violence (May 2011)
Royal Manchester's Children's Hospital (June 2011)
First News Children's Newspaper (June 2011)
John Smith Memorial Trust (July 2011)
All Party Ladies Committee/Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (July 2011)
Louise Gergel Fellowship (July 2011)
Business in the Community (July 2011)
Evalina Children's Hospital (September 2011)
Norwood (September 2011)
Great Ormond Street (September 2011).

Air Force: Scotland

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence his Department has received from the Scottish Government in respect of the recent RAF basing review. [75239]

Danny Alexander: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), gave him on 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1186.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the quantity of sovereign debt held by UK banks that has been issued by *(a)* Greece, *(b)* Ireland, *(c)* Portugal, *(d)* Spain, *(e)* Italy and *(f)* France. [76088]

Mr Hoban: Data on external claims of UK-owned monetary financial institutions, and of their branches and subsidiaries abroad, is available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Bankstats/2011/Sep/TabC4.2.xls

This includes UK banking groups' direct exposures to the entire public sectors in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Italy and France, as of end June 2011.

Business: Complaints

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have discussed customer complaints with representatives of banks and other big businesses; and if he will make a statement. [76458]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Child Benefit

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 686W, on child benefit, what estimate he has made of the additional administrative cost of *(a)* the new child benefit cancellation arrangements at HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* new self-assessment tax return provisions for child benefit recipient disclosure and *(c)* amending PAYE systems to allow taxpayer disclosure of child benefit receipt. [76378]

Mr Gauke: The preliminary indicative estimate for delivering the change to child benefit announced by the Chancellor on 4 October 2010 is £130 million over the four-year spending review period. This figure covers the changes required to existing IT systems and other administrative costs, such as staffing and communications.

Child Care Tax Credits: North Lanarkshire

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of women in the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency likely to give up work following reductions in the level of refundable child care. [75863]

Mr Gauke: The assumptions made in the costing of changes to child tax credit and working tax credit from 2011-12 are set out in spending review 2010 policy costings, available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

The Government recently agreed the extension of child care provision to those working less than 16 hours through universal credit, which will enable the transition of parents into the labour market.

Child Trust Fund

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the change in the average monetary value of child trust funds invested in share schemes over the last 12 months; [75764]

(2) whether any assessment has been made of the expected long-term performance of child trust fund investments; [75765]

(3) if the Government will consider the merits of reviews updating its advice to parents on how child trust funds are managed, in order to highlight lower-risk savings options; [75766]

(4) if he will investigate a change to the rules on child trust funds to allow parents to transfer existing funds into Junior ISA schemes. [75767]

Mr Gauke: The Child Trust Fund (CTF) scheme provided every eligible child with a tax-free savings account. There are currently around six million CTF accounts which are worth approximately £3.2million. The Government believe that a sizable CTF market exists, and expect that providers will continue to offer competitive CTF investments.

The Government have made no formal assessments of the expected long-term performance of CTF investments, but expect that investment growth in CTF accounts will be broadly in line with other investment products. CTF providers are not required to report to HM Revenue and Customs the annual investment returns on CTF stakeholder accounts they provide. Available CTF statistical information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

To ensure CTF account holders receive the best rate of returns for their investments, the Government would encourage parents to continue to shop around to obtain the best deals, including switching between CTF account types and providers.

Junior ISAs and CTF accounts will operate in different ways and the Government do not believe it is in the interests of the six million CTF account holders to rush into wholesale changes to the CTF scheme without consulting all interested parties first. Therefore, once Junior ISAs have been successfully launched, the Government will consider the future of existing CTF accounts, including whether CTFs should be converted into Junior ISAs.

In the meantime, to ensure that children with a CTF are not disadvantaged, on 1 November the Government will increase the CTF contribution limit to £3,600, bringing it in line with the Junior ISA limit. Through this the Government are providing support for all parents wishing to save for their children's future.

Community Investment Tax Relief

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the take-up was of Community Investment Tax Relief in each year since its inception. [75665]

Mr Gauke: The take-up of Community Investment Tax Relief in terms of numbers of individuals and amounts claimed each year are shown in the following table.

Tax year	*Number of claimants*	*Income tax relief claimed (£000)*
2002-03	650	170
2003-04	580	395
2004-05	930	905
2005-06	1,175	1,315
2006-07	1,155	1,335
2007-08	1,125	1,135
2008-09	1,025	1,090
2009-10	980	1,275

Each year a small number of companies (around 20 to 30) also claim the relief, but data on the amounts claimed are not available.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a target take-up level for Community Investment Tax Relief was *(a)* projected and *(b)* set as a target at the time of its inception. [75666]

Mr Gauke: Community Investment Tax Relief was introduced in 2002. There was no target take-up set at the time of inception. It was projected that £25 million a year would be claimed in tax relief over a 10 year period.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74917]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has staff based in two sites, in London and Norwich. During the last 12 months no civil servants have been relocated from London to Norwich and fewer than five civil servants have agreed to relocate from Norwich to London. There are currently no further plans to relocate staff.

It is the Department's policy not to disclose further details of staff numbers fewer than five, where to do so could lead to the identification of protected personal data.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75717]

Miss Chloe Smith: A list of Treasury Ministers' meetings with external organisations can be found on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75172]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury adheres to the IT security principles set out in the Government's Security Policy Framework (SPF):

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/hmg-security-policy_0_0.pdf

The SPF contains a number of mandatory measures dealing with best practice security standards for managing and protecting Government IT systems and devices, as well as business continuity. These measures include regular independent IT health checks.

In addition, HM Treasury make every effort to keep up to date with current developments in cyber security, reviewing security and business continuity policies accordingly and endeavouring to encourage a culture of security-risk-and-threat-awareness within the Department.

Employment: Public Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to support areas of the UK with high levels of public sector employment. [75919]

Danny Alexander: The public sector paybill accounts for around half of departmental resource spending, so deficit reduction will inevitably impact on the public sector workforce. Failing to tackle the deficit would cause more harm to job prospects in the public sector in the medium term.

Most public sector workforces are spread throughout the country so we do not expect major variations in job losses between regions. However, there may be more localised impacts.

The Government will monitor actively potential workforce reductions—looking to use the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Teams as appropriate.

The Regional Growth Fund will also support local projects with significant growth potential.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of alcohol duty fraud in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2008-09; [75644]

(2) if he will hold a consultation on introducing duty stamps on beer and wine. [75645]

Miss Chloe Smith: At Budget 2011, the Chancellor announced that the Government will explore potential legislative measures to tackle existing and emerging threats to alcohol duty receipts. HMRC are currently consulting with the alcohol industry informally on potential anti-fraud measures. All options remain under consideration, and a decision whether to consult formally on specific measures will be taken in due course.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Simon Hart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on proposals for a rural fuel duty rebate; and when he expects to announce progress. [75888]

Miss Chloe Smith: The European Commission has agreed in principle to the adoption of such a scheme. On 8 September, the Commission published the proposal for the application of reduced levels of taxation on petrol and diesel across the inner and outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, the islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

The next stage of the process is to secure the unanimous agreement of other EU member states to the proposal and we will publish information on further progress in due course.

Financial Services Authority

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on skilled persons reports; and how many such reports were issued to asset management firms in *(a)* each year from 2006 to 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [75911]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet senior members of the Financial Service Authority (FSA) on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

I understand that the FSA publishes information on the use of the power to commission "skilled persons" reports in its annual report. A breakdown of the use of this power at sector level could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Inheritance Tax

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of charities that will benefit from the proposal to make estates liable for a lower rate of inheritance tax when 10 per cent. or more of their value is left to charities; [75862]

(2) how much revenue was raised from inheritance tax in Scotland in each of the last five years; [75913]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic situation on revenue raised from inheritance tax; [75914]

(4) what proportion of estates at death were liable for inheritance tax *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Scotland in each of the last five years; [75915]

(5) what estimate he has made of the likely financial effect on charities *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Scotland of the proposal for estates to pay a lower rate of inheritance tax when 10 per cent. or more of their value is left to charities; and when he intends to publish details of the proposed scheme. [75955]

Mr Gauke: The consultation document "A new incentive for charitable legacies", published on the HMRC website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD1_031346

stated that there are over 300,000 charities in the UK. All of these bodies could potentially benefit from the proposal to reduce the rate of inheritance tax for estates which leave 10% or more of their value to charities. However, we do not know how many of these charities will be left additional legacies as a result of this measure in any given year.

Numbers of estates liable for inheritance tax in the UK are published in National Statistics table 1.4 available from the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-4-march2011.xls

Numbers of taxpayers in Scotland and tax receipts from Scottish estates are published in Table 12.10 available from the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-10.xls

Based on this data the proportion of estates liable at death for inheritance tax is given in the following table.

Taxpaying estates as a proportion of deaths

		Percentage
	UK	Scotland
2006-07	6	n/a
2007-08	4	3
2008-09	3	2
2009-10	3	n/a
2010-11	3	n/a

The tax receipts from Scottish estates as published in Table 12.10 are given in the following table.

	Receipts (£ million)
2006-07	n/a
2007-08	220
2008-09	231
2009-10	n/a
2010-11	n/a

Data for 2006/07 on taxpaying estates or receipts for Scotland was not published. Data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be published to our publication schedule which is available from the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/updates/annual-plan.pdf

A revised forecast of inheritance tax revenue which will take into account the effect of the economic situation will be published by the Office for Budget Responsibility in November 2011.

The tax impact assessment in the consultation document previously referred to contains an estimate of the likely financial effect on charities nationally from the proposal to reduce the rate of inheritance tax for estates leaving 10% or more of their value to charities. No individual assessment has been made of the likely financial effect on charities in Scotland.

An outline of the proposed scheme was published in the consultation document, which sought views on details of the policy. The next stage of policy development for this proposal will be to publish draft legislation for Finance Bill 2012 and explanatory notes, accompanied by a taxes information and impact note and updated tax impact assessment, in December 2011.

Money: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the face value was of counterfeit coins removed from circulation in each year since 1997. [74486]

Miss Chloe Smith: The following number of counterfeit £1 coins have been returned to the Royal Mint:

	Total withdrawals
2003-04	85,000
2004-05	117,500
2005-06	84,500
2006-07	153,800
2007-08	97,000
2008-09	891,956
2009-10	1,973,000
2010-11	1,845,766
2011-12 (to 30 September)	1,376,436

The Treasury does not have figures on withdrawals prior to 2003, when the counterfeit rate was estimated to be less than 1%.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of counterfeit *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10, *(c)* £20 and *(d)* £50 bank notes in circulation. [74492]

Miss Chloe Smith: In 2010, 300,000 counterfeit Bank of England notes with a face value of £5.9 million were taken out of circulation.

Details of the number of counterfeit Bank of England notes taken out of circulation are published on the Bank's website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

Pensioners: Income Tax

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of pensioners who paid income tax at the *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent. and *(c)* basic rate in each year since 2008-09; and what proportion of (i) all pensioner taxpayers and (ii) all pensioners these figures represented in each year. [73785]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The requested information is shown in the following table.

Income taxpayers of state pension age

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Thousand				
Basic rate	5,170	5,140	5,280	5,190
Higher rate	341	265	267	351
Additional rate	—	—	20	23
All pensioner taxpayers	5,510	5,410	5,560	5,570
As percentage of total pensioner taxpayers				
Basic rate	93.8	95.1	94.8	93.3
Higher rate	6.2	4.9	4.8	6.3
Additional rate	—	—	0.4	0.4
As percentage of all pensioners				
Basic rate	43.7	42.7	43.7	42.8
Higher rate	2.9	2.2	2.2	29
Additional rate	—	—	0.2	0.2
All pensioner taxpayers	46.6	44.9	46.1	45.9

The estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the OBR's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Pensioners are defined as taxpayers aged 65 years or older for men and 60 years or older for women in 2008-09 and 2009-10. The female state pension age is being increased gradually from April 2010 to be equalised with the male state pension age by November 2018. The female state pension age for the purposes of this table in 2010-11 is 60 years six months and in 2011-12 is 61 years.

Basic rate taxpayers are defined as all non-higher and additional rate taxpayers.

Pensioner population estimates are derived from the Office for National Statistics population projections.

Pensions

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of the tax-free lump sum for pension payments; what assumptions he has made in reaching this estimate; how many such lump sums were paid in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [75925]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential revenue yield from capping the tax free lump sum for pension payments at *(a)* £250,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £150,000 and *(d)* £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [75926]

Mr Hoban: There are no estimates for the cost of the tax-free lump sum for pension payments, nor an estimate of the potential revenue yield by capping it. There is no requirement on pension schemes to report to HM Revenue and Customs the amount or number of tax-free lump sum pension payments.

Pensions: Tax Allowances

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue yield from restricting tax relief on pensions to 20% from incomes of £100,000 to incomes of £150,000 in each of the first three years after implementation; and if he will make a statement. [75951]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimate that the revenue yield from restricting tax relief on pensions to 20% on incomes from £100,000 to £150,000 would be £1 billion in each of the three years after implementation.

This is on an accruals basis and excludes behavioural effects.

Public Sector: Co-operatives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74786]

Danny Alexander: The Government support implementation of a right for public sector workers to form independent, mutual and co-operative social enterprises. The formation of public service mutuals is an important piece of the Government's open public services agenda as set out in the Open Public Services White Paper this July. Treasury is actively engaged in implementing this agenda across Government and this includes enabling public sector employees the opportunity to run the services they provide.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74813]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury is working with Cabinet Office to consider whether areas of central Government are appropriate for developing public sector mutuals. The formation of public service mutuals is an important piece of the Government's open public services agenda as set out in the Open Public Services White Paper this July. Treasury is actively engaged in implementing this agenda across Government and this includes enabling public sector employees the opportunity to run the services they provide.

Radio Frequencies

Andrew Percy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely level of revenue from an auction of 800MHz and 2,600MHz Spectrum; and whether such revenues have been included in the Government Accounts for the comprehensive spending review period; [75478]

(2) what his policy is on the allocation of the proceeds from any future auction of 800MHz and 2,600MHz Spectrum; and whether any announced spending commitments will be funded from the proceeds of such an auction. [75479]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* The Government does not comment on their estimates of receipts from asset sales, which are of a commercially sensitive nature.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for determining whether receipts from asset sales should be included in the fiscal forecasts. To date the OBR's policy has been not to include future receipts from the sale of spectrum licenses on the basis that they cannot be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Consistent with this approach, the Government made no assumptions at spending review 2010 about the level of receipts from the award of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum licenses and no spending commitments are contingent upon these receipts.

Stamp Duties

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered the merits of raising the stamp duty threshold in order to increase levels of home ownership. [75907]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor keeps all taxes, including stamp duty land tax, under review at the Budget.

Stamp Duties: First-time Buyers

Mr Burley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has considered the merits of extending the current relief from stamp duty for first-time buyers beyond March 2012. [75735]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at Budget 2011 that the outcome of a review of the stamp duty land tax relief for first-time buyers will be announced in autumn 2011.

Taxation: Business

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue raised from small businesses in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much and what proportion of such revenue was collected via *(a)* employee income tax, *(b)* employee national insurance contributions, *(c)* employer national insurance contributions, *(d)* business rates, *(e)* corporation tax, *(f)* Value Added Tax, *(g)* capital gains tax and *(h)* stamp duty land tax. [74605]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to identify tax revenue raised from small businesses on a consistent basis as the necessary information on turnover, assets and employment is not routinely collected on tax returns for every head of duty. However, we are able to provide estimates for some taxes on a tax-specific definition of what constitutes a 'small business'.

(a), *(b)* and *(c)* We estimate that 21% (£45.4 billion) of pay as you earn (PAYE) received in respect of tax year 2010-11 came from small businesses. Small businesses are defined for this analysis as PAYE schemes with fewer than 50 employees. Businesses may have more than one PAYE scheme, so there may be cases where schemes have fewer than 50 employees but where the business itself has more.

(d) CLG statistics on national non-domestics rates are available using the following link. They do not have any information on receipts of business rates by size of business.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1972031.pdf

(e) Total corporation tax receipts across all businesses can be found on the HMRC website. Companies making profits for an accounting period at a rate of over £1.5 million annually must normally pay by instalments. Smaller companies will normally fall outside the instalment payment regime. Defining small company in this way, net small company payments in 2010-11 were £11.5 billion. The link is:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.xls

(f) Home VAT is VAT charged on supplies of goods or services made in the UK. For small businesses, defined for this category as those with turnover less than £10 million, the receipts from Home VAT is around £27 billion.

This is available on the UK Trade Info website. The link is:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat *(g)* Capital gains tax statistics on assets by business and non business can be found in the HMRC website using the following link. However, we are unable to disaggregate these figures by business size. The link is:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-6.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-7.pdf

(h) Stamp duty land tax statistics on all non-residential transactions can be found on the HMRC website. However, we are unable to disaggregate these figures by business size. The link is:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-3.pdf

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Economic Secretary to the Treasury will meet representatives of the amusement games industry to discuss the conclusions of his Department's recent consultation on the introduction of a machine gaming duty. [75339]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75637]

John Penrose: No cost has been spent on advertising for job vacancies within the Department since May 2010.

£123,568.93 has been spent on advertising for public appointments. The Department follows the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice with regard to publicising appointments.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants work in his Department; and how many worked in his Department in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2010. [76388]

John Penrose: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in post at this Department as at 31 March for the years requested, is in the following table.

	FTE staff
2000	623
2005	509
2007	517
2010	469
2011	443

This information has been taken from the departmental resource accounts 1999-2000, 2004-05 and the departmental consolidated accounts 2010-11.

Museums and Galleries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people have visited a publicly-funded museum in the last 12 months. [75844]

Mr Vaizey: This Department holds information about the number of people visiting their sponsored museums and the museums funded through the Renaissance in the Regions programme.

The number of people who visited this Department's sponsored museums from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011 is in the following table:

Museum	*Visits*
Tate Galleries (including Tate London: i.e. Tate Britain and Tate Modern combined, Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives)	7,296,933
British Museum	5,944,964
National Gallery	5,127,000
Natural History Museum (NHM) (including NHM South Kensington, NHM at Tring)	4,772,995
National Museum of Science and Industry (including Science Museum South Kensington, National Media Museum, National Railway Museum, Science Museum Swindon, Locomotion at Shildon)	4,176,967
Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) (including V&A South Kensington, V&A Museum of Childhood and V&A Theatre Museum)	3,042,231
National Museums Liverpool	2,899,189
Imperial War Museum (IWM) (including IWM London, HMS Belfast, Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, Duxford Air Museum, IWM North)	2,307,542
National Maritime Museum	1,931,797
Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (including all 13 branches)[1]	1,871,274
National Portrait Gallery	1,785,616
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	818,724
Horniman Museum (excluding visits to the garden)[1]	512,129
Wallace Collection	368,962
Royal Armouries (RA) (including RA Leeds and RA Fort Nelson)	288,633
Sir John Soane's Museum	109,325
Geffrye Museum[1]	106,105
National Coal Mining Museum for England	102,867

[1] The Geffrye, the Horniman Museum and Gardens and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums are part of the Renaissance hub network and so visits to these museums will also be counted in the Renaissance in the Regions figures.

The latest available figures for the Renaissance in the Regions programme shows that between April 2010 and March 2011, 18,780,545 people visited the Renaissance museum venues.

Ofcom

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what procurement process was followed in respect of the contract between Ofcom and Equiniti on the programme making and special events funding scheme; and if he will make a statement. [76195]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom followed a competitive procurement process under the "restricted procedure" as detailed in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended). This involved inviting expressions of interest via a public notice in the Official Journal of the European Union and Ofcom's own website from 21 December 2009 under the reference number ITT/83/09. Invitations to tender (including a draft contract and detailed award criteria) were issued to all expressing an interest on 15 February 2010 which resulted in the submission of three compliant tenders, and the contract being awarded to Equiniti Limited following detailed assessment of the three tenders received.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of profits made by re-selling surrendered programme making and special events equipment will go back to *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* Equiniti, the scheme administrator. [76196]

Mr Vaizey: The contract between Ofcom and Equiniti contains a gain share clause whereby 54% of the resale value, not profit, is returned to HM Treasury. Equiniti must cover its own cost of sales from its share of the resale value.

Also Equiniti must bear the whole cost of disposal in accordance with environmental legislation of such equipment as cannot be resold.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what safeguards have been put in place to ensure that surrendered equipment which is resold as part of the programme making and special events funding scheme will be either returned or destroyed by October 2012; and if he will make a statement. [76197]

Mr Vaizey: UK sales are being made only to lawful, licensed users of channel 69. The contract between Ofcom and Equiniti requires destruction in accordance with environmental regulations, return or modification for lawful use. Further, there is a requirement that any purchaser of surrendered equipment agrees to take the equipment out of use by the time licensed (and therefore lawful) use of channel 69 expires and confirm in writing to Equiniti that they have either modified the equipment to operate on Channel 38 or Channel 70, disposed of the Equipment under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations or returned it to Equiniti. Ofcom can request purchasers provide documentary evidence of disposal or modification (and to make equipment available for inspection on request in the case of modification).

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* his Department have budgeted in order to police the use of Channel 69 by people who have bought surrendered equipment from Equiniti; and if he will make a statement. [76198]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom has powers under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to take enforcement action against unlawful use of spectrum. It has not budgeted separately in respect of channel 69.

Philatelic Organisations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department gives to philatelic organisations. [75836]

John Penrose: The British Library holds the National Philatelic Collections of the United Kingdom. Following the spending review it was allocated the following budgets and grant in aid:

	Resource budget (£ million)				*Capital budget (£ million)*			
	Programme (near-cash)	*Admin (near-cash)*	*Ring fenced depreciation*	*Total resource (DEL[1]) budget (£ million)*	*Core capital*	*Projects*	*Total capital (DEL) budget (£ million)*	*Grant in aid (£ million)*
2011-12	85.153	8,314	17.700	111.167	2.906	11.100	14.006	107.473
2012-13	83.575	8.164	18.700	110.439	3.047	1.500	4.547	96.286
2013-14	82.311	8.044	18.700	109.055	3.189	0	3.189	93.544
2014-15	82.147	7.929	19.205	109.280	3.331	0	3.331	93.407

[1] Departmental expenditure limit.

Sportsgrounds: Safety

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much he expects to save through the abolition of the Sports Ground Safety Authority. [76024]

Hugh Robertson: The role and remit of the Sports Ground Safety Authority has just been extended in a recent Act of Parliament. A number of options for their future are being considered, but no figures on costs or savings can be provided at this stage.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Mr Adam Werritty has been present at meetings with each Minister of his Department since May 2010. [75498]

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the report by the Cabinet Secretary of 18 October 2011, what matters were discussed between the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Security Strategy and Mr Adam Werritty at the official meeting between them. [76580]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I refer the hon. Members to the Cabinet Secretary's report published on 18 October 2011. The report refers to contact between Mr Adam Werritty and two Ministry of Defence (MOD) Ministers: the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Government spokesperson (Lord Astor of Hever) and the Under-Secretary of State for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth).

Lord Astor had occasional social contact with Mr Werritty: contact as a result of their previous involvement with the Atlantic Bridge; and contact in passing when visiting Bahrain for the Manama Dialogue in December 2010. None of these meetings involved official MOD business.

Mr Howarth has met Adam Werritty on three occasions, two of which were large social gatherings. Adam Werritty was also present at a meeting between Mr Howarth and a representative of IRG Ltd regarding information that could be useful to the Department relating to Iraq. The discussion centred on the economic and political landscape in Iraq. No further contact or action has taken place.

Afghanistan: Hotels

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hotel bills in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [75418]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence has not incurred any costs from hotel bills in the years requested.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of helicopter support available to UK forces in Afghanistan. [76273]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Helicopter support for UK forces in Afghanistan is regularly reviewed. The military assessment continues to be that commanders on the ground have access to sufficient helicopter flying hours to enable core tasks to be undertaken.

AlixPartners

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case relating to the appointment of AlixPartners. [73328]

Peter Luff: AlixPartners was chosen for their proven competence and experience in business turnaround. The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) renegotiation programme required a high level of professional skill which was not available within the MOD on the scale needed for an exercise of this scope within the timescales available, and it was clear that additional assistance was required. I am withholding the release of the business case as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

The work carried out by AlixPartners is expected to realise hundreds of millions in savings through contract renegotiation.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75636]

Mr Robathan: Although the Ministry of Defence is reducing its civilian staff headcount and has imposed a freeze on most external recruitment, we still need to recruit for posts that are business critical or provide support to current operational commitments. The majority of the external recruitment carried out since May 2010 has been for Service Children's Education, to provide teachers overseas, and also for medical grades, including doctors, nurses and physiotherapists. We have also had to fill a number of senior civil service posts critical to driving forward our reform agenda. These posts are usually advertised across a range of specialist media, as well as on the civil service jobs website. The amount spent on recruitment advertising since May 2010 is £522,826.59. This does not include any expenditure by the trading funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's business plan 2011-15, how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction of the number of heavy armour platforms in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71290]

Mr Philip Hammond: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

				£ million
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	5	10	10	10
Capital DEL	<5	<5	<5	<5

The figures include the currently projected savings for: Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank, the Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle, the Driver Training Tank, Titan, Trojan, and AS90.

They do not include any savings in depreciation or the costs of writing the assets down, which cannot be calculated until the future of the surplus equipment has been determined.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million; the Capital DEL element of the savings is less than £5 million in total over the four-year period.

Ex-servicemen

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans for a public awareness campaign on difficulties faced by veterans. [75047]

Mr Robathan: The armed forces covenant underlines our commitment to ensuring that all the service community, including ex-service personnel, receive the support and recognition which they deserve. As part of this, we work very closely with other Government Departments, devolved

Administrations and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that the needs and circumstances of the ex-service community are known with the aim of improving veterans' access to services and to assist with their transition to civilian life. This includes the work undertaken by the Department of Health to inform GPs about the potential problems that may face veterans and the Department for Communities and Local Government programme to ensure that local authorities give priority to eligible veterans in relation to housing. Indeed, the publicity surrounding the implementation of covenant initiatives has succeeded in raising, the profile of the needs of our service community among the wider public.

In addition, the Department aims to inform the public of the help and advice available to veterans. For example, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes a quarterly newsletter, Veterans World, which provides information on specific Government, devolved Administration and charitable initiatives aimed at assisting veterans. The MOD also regularly engages with news channels and documentary makers to publicly highlight the issues faced by some veterans and the steps the Government are taking to address these.

Graham Livesey

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of employing Mr Graham Livesey as a military assistant. [75495]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Livesey is a serving Army Officer. As a Lt Col his salary is in the range of £67,031 to £77,617. His appointment as a Military Assistant in the Defence Secretary's office was made under the same terms and conditions of service as to any other post.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Army have been deployed in relation to the NATO operation in Libya since March 2011. [74314]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Information on the number of service personnel who have participated in the NATO operation in Libya is not held in the format requested. As at 10 October 2011 the number of service personnel deployed overseas in support of Operation Ellamy, the UK contribution to the NATO operation, was:

	Number of service personnel[1]
Royal Navy	350
Royal Air Force	770
Army	90

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 personnel

The number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons including temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, and visits. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

Dalgety Bay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when his Department first received reports of radioactive pollution at Dalgety Bay in Fife; [75751]

(2) what surveys his Department has undertaken of Dalgety Bay in Fife; [75752]

(3) how many radioactive particles have been recorded at Dalgety Bay in Fife since his Department first received reports of pollution at that location. [75754]

Mr Robathan: Personnel from Rosyth Dockyard are reported to have first found contamination in June 1990 while carrying out ongoing environmental monitoring associated with nuclear submarine operations at Rosyth.

The most recent survey work undertaken by Ministry of Defence (MOD) contractors was on 12 September 2011 when over 30 items, sometimes referred to as radioactive particles or artefacts, were recovered. It is understood that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has recovered additional radioactive items. Previous to the September survey, the MOD has undertaken six monitoring surveys and three intrusive investigations of the foreshore area which recovered a total of 128 radioactive items. The results of these surveys along with locations at which buried radium fragments have been encountered are published in the (Entec) Completion Report, dated 19 October available on the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DIO/OurPublications/TechnicalDocuments/MTP/DalgetyBay.htm

Recorded finds prior to MOD's support to SEPA via the Dalgety Bay Forum are detailed in previous Health Protection Agency and SEPA reports. SEPA's reports are available on their website at:

http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/publications/dalgety_bay_reports.aspx

These documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

In addition to the surveys details above, the MOD has also undertaken investigation, survey and recovery works in relation to properties on the land and these have been satisfactory resolved.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department plans to take to secure the foreshore at the location where radioactive pollution has been identified at Dalgety Bay in Fife; [75756]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on the clean-up of contamination from military aircraft at Dalgety Bay in Fife; [75758]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of cleaning up radioactive pollution found at Dalgety Bay in Fife. [75760]

Mr Robathan: The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have cordoned off the foreshore at Dalgety Bay following the recent finds.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has agreed to dispose of radioactive items recovered by SEPA as part of their ongoing investigative work. In addition the MOD has made a commitment to undertake a three-year programme of monitoring and recovery at Dalgety Bay to give the public a greater level of protection while SEPA undertakes its additional investigations to identify the source(s) of contamination.

As the scope of any remediation has yet to be established it would be difficult to provide a realistic estimate of the remediation cost at this time.

The MOD continues to support SEPA in the accumulation and disposal of radioactive items recovered during their investigations and supports their work in protecting the public.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration scientists of his Department gave to analysing radioactive contamination found at Dalgety Bay in Fife in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [75759]

Mr Robathan: All materials recovered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) from Dalgety Bay have been assessed for radium content. The findings are available in the (Entec) Completion Report which is available on the MOD website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DIO/OurPublications/TechnicalDocuments/MTP/DalgetyBay.htm

A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

All material recovered by the Department has then been offered to SEPA so that further analysis can be carried out as necessary.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when officials of his Department last met the Dalgety Bay Risk Assessment Group; and when this group next intends to meet. [75755]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials have attended one meeting of the Dalgety Bay Risk Assessment Group, chaired by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, in March 2009. Although the MOD has suggested a further meeting, we have no record of any taking place.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to support the development of women's rights in Afghanistan. [75812]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is working hard to support Afghan women's empowerment, including creating opportunities for economic growth and social wellbeing that are inclusive of both men and women. For example, we are working with a local Afghan partner to link women tailors and cloth merchants to female agents for markets to help them sell their products. This programme has worked with more than 2,000 Afghan women to date and its reach is to be extended.

On women's rights, Department for International Development works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to help ensure that the Afghan Government and civil society uphold the rights of, and demonstrate accountability to Afghan women, and to support the Afghan peace and reconciliation process as part of an inclusive and sustainable political settlement.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74359]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development paid 98% of invoices within 10 days of receipt in July 2010 and 93% of invoices within 10 days of receipt in August 2010.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75711]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Information on meetings between the Secretary of State for International Development and external organisations; including charities, social enterprises and large and small and medium enterprises is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Ministers/

This information covers meetings held since May 2010.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75019]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the average numbers of days lost to sickness absence, by pay grade, within the Department for International Development worldwide during the 2010-11 financial year, are shown in the following table:

Average days lost to sickness absence per employee

Pay grade	*Number*
Senior civil service (SCS)	0.2
A1/grade 6	1.3
A2/grade 7	2.9
A2(L)/Senior executive officer plus fast stream staff	4.7
B1/Higher executive officer	7.9
B2/Executive officer	10.4
C1/Administrative officer	17.7
C2/Administrative assistant	8.6
DFID overall	5.3

Indonesia: Natural Resources

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's projects and programmes in Indonesia include the promotion of sustainable management of the earth's resources; and if he will make a statement. [76201]

Mr O'Brien: In April 2011 the Department for International Development (DFID) agreed with the Government of Indonesia to focus all future UK aid for Indonesia on issues related to climate change, which we believe is the most effective way we can help to improve the lives of poor people in Indonesia in the long term. This means that all of DFID's current and future programmes in Indonesia will contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources. They will do this by helping to reduce deforestation and promoting more sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities. This will also help Indonesia meet its target for reducing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions.

Israel: Overseas Aid

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department provided to *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Egypt in each category of expenditure in the latest period for which figures are available. [75793]

Mr Duncan: For the financial year 2010-11 my Department provided no assistance to the Governments of Israel or Egypt.

The Prime Minister announced in May this year that the UK would provide £110 million to North African and Arab Spring countries, including Egypt, over the next four years, to support political and economic reform and transition in the middle east, including Egypt over the next four years. £90 million of this funding will come from my department with £20 million supplied by the FCO. Programming of this funding is currently under way and will support areas such as job creation, economic and social inclusion, political reform and free and fair elections across Arab Spring countries.

My Department has no bilateral programme of assistance to Israel. In the financial year 2010-11 £500,000 of Conflict Pool funding was provided to Israeli NGOs working to address the causes of conflict and promote co-existence between Israel's Jewish and Arab populations and respect for human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Middle East: Pipelines

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding from his Department is available to assist in the reconstruction of the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline. [75794]

Mr Duncan: No funding is available to assist the reconstruction of the Arish-Ashkelon pipeline.

The Prime Minister announced in May this year that the UK would provide £110 million to North African and Arab Spring countries, including Egypt, over the next four years, to support political and economic reform and transition in the middle east, including Egypt over the next four years. £90 million of this funding will come from my Department with £20 million supplied by the FCO. Programming of this funding is currently under way and will support areas such as job creation, economic and social inclusion, political reform and free and fair elections across Arab Spring countries.

Mozambique: Environment Protection

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote environmental awareness in Mozambique at the provincial and sub-district level; and if he will make a statement. [76203]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) promotes environmental awareness in Mozambique at provincial and sub-district levels, first, through Budget Support. This will help finance a nationwide campaign launched by the President of Mozambique last year and run by the Ministry for the Environment, which encourages, for example, every school pupil to plant a tree and every community to preserve their forests. It will help increase the number of local 'environmental educators' from 800 in 2010 to 5,000 in 2014.

Secondly, DFID promotes environmental awareness by mainstreaming environmental issues into the projects we deliver through multiple sectors for example, education, agricultural, livelihoods, water and sanitation and by supporting civil society to advocate on environmental issues. DFID also leads by example, including by cutting the carbon footprint of our office in Mozambique. For example, the office cut its electricity consumption by 34%, comparing the last two months' bills to the same period last year.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement; [74783]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74819]

Mr O'Brien: DFID staff have been made aware of the public sector-wide scheme which the Cabinet Office is taking forward in response to Government commitments. This scheme will give public sector workers new rights to spin out to form new enterprises and continue to deliver public services, including through new mutuals and co-operatives. These rights will not be uniform across organisations.

The Mutuals Support Programme is a fund of more than £10 million, administered by the Cabinet Office. It will be dedicated to supporting some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. This will be supported by the Mutuals Information Service that will give help and guidance to potential and existing mutuals. These will be launched later in the autumn.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the role of the planning system in meeting the commitment in the coalition agreement to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. [75871]

Lynne Featherstone: No discussions have been held with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the role of the planning system in meeting the commitment in the coalition agreement to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research.

Contraband Goods

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases where contraband goods were seized at the port of Dover was *(a)* the vehicle transporting the goods permanently seized (and not returned to its owner) and *(b)* the driver or owner prosecuted in each of the years (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [75815]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold all the information requested. The UK Border Agency prosecutes individuals attempting to transport prohibited and restricted goods into the United Kingdom. All excise seizures are referred to HM Revenue and Customs to action.

Records for permanently seized vehicles are available only from 2010 and statistics regarding prosecutions are not available.

The total number of vehicles seized by UK Border Agency in Dover for the years stated are as follows:

	Vehicles seized	*Number Retained*
2007-08	1,104	n/a
2008-09	947	n/a
2009-10	1,052	[1]355
2010-11	1,173	[2]859

[1] 2010 only.

[2] October 2011.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date contraband goods were seized at the port of Dover in each year since 2007-08; what the *(a)* nature, *(b)* quantity and *(c)* estimated street value of the goods seized was in each case; and how much excise or other duties were forgone in each case. [75832]

Damian Green: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75629]

Damian Green: The Home Office and its agencies have spent £20,935 on advertising job vacancies at senior civil servant level between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2011. Information for posts below this level is available only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Pay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary is of the UK Border Agency officials *(a)* Zilla Bowell, *(b)* Rob Yeldham, *(c)* Jonathan Sedgwick, *(d)* David Wood, *(e)* Martin Peach, *(f)* Matthew Coates, *(g)* Justin Holliday, *(h)* Joe Dugdale and *(i)* Brodie Clark. [75746]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has published the salaries of senior staff, as part our commitment to transparency. The data now in the public domain represents what we can provide while honouring the duty that we have to our staff under the Data Protection Act.

The information is set out as follows and is in table 3.13 of the UK Border Agency annual report and accounts 2010-11.

	2010-11			*2009-10*		
Officials	*Salary (£000)*	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)*	*Salary (£000)*	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)*
Jonathan Sedgwick Deputy Chief Executive Acting Chief Executive (from 10 January 2011)	105-110	5-10	0	100-105	10-15	0
Brodie Clark Director Border Force	130-135	5-10	2,500	130-135	10-15	5,700
Matthew Coats Director Immigration Group	145-150	5-10	0	145-150	10-15	0
Justin Holliday Director Resource Management Group	130-135	5-10	0	130-135	5-10	0
Joe Dugdale Director HR and Organisational Development	130-135	5-10	0	130-135	10-15	0
Martin Peach Director Intelligence Group	105-110	0	0	105-110	0	0
David Wood Director Criminality and Detention Group	100-105	5-10	0	100-105	10-15	0
Robert Yeldham Director Communications	85-90	0-5	0	85-90	0	0
Zilla Bowell Chief of Staff (from 3 August 2009)	65-70	0-5	0	[1]45-50	0-5	0

[1] 65-70 full year equivalent

Salary here includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances; and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by the UK Border Agency.

This can also be accessed via the following link:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/

Additionally, a list of SCS salaries (pay band 2 and above) and departmental organograms was published on 15 June 2011 showing a snapshot as at 31 March 2011. These are available on line at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/corporate-publications/ukba-structure-salary-march-2011/

An updated list showing a snapshot as at 30 September 2011 is expected to be published by the 30 November.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken was for a foreign offender issued with a deportation order to be removed from *(a)* the issue of the deportation order and *(b)* since the offender left prison in each of the last five years. [75541]

Damian Green: The following table shows the average length of time for a foreign national offender to be removed from the UK following the issue of a deportation order. Please note that data prior to 2008 are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

	Average number of days taken to remove a foreign national offender following the issue of a deportation order
2008	149
2009	149
2010	165
2011 (to September)	172

The following table shows the average length of time for a foreign national offender to be removed from the UK following the completion of their custodial sentence. Please note that data prior to 2008 are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

	Average number of days taken to remove a foreign national offender following the completion of their custodial sentence
2008	131
2009	119
2010	95
2011 (to September)	77

Detention Centres: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been held in detention at pre-departure accommodation Cedars since it opened. [75650]

Damian Green: The latest published figures show that no children have been held in the pre-departure accommodation at Cedars between when it opened on 17 August 2011 and 31 August 2011.

Since 25 November 2010, each month the Home Office has published a table specifically showing how many children entered immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities. This excludes those in police cells, Prison Service establishments and short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. From 29 September 2011, when figures for August were published, this table has included Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The Home Office publishes monthly, quarterly and annual statistics on the number of children entering detention, solely under Immigration Act powers. Children entering detention figures relating to September 2011 will be published on 27 October 2011 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statisticsl/

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are being held in each immigration detention facility; and what the reason for the detention is in each case. [75677]

Damian Green: The latest published figures show that no children were being held in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres and short term holding facilities as at 30 June 2011. This excludes those in police cells, Prison Service establishments and short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

Quarterly figures published on children in detention are taken as a snapshot on the last day of each quarter. Additionally figures are published on children entering detention on a monthly basis.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of children in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers. Children in detention figures as at 30 September 2011 will be published on 24 November 2011 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics webpages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Entry Clearances: Domestic Workers

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the migrant domestic workers who renewed their visas in 2009 first entered the UK in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009. [75670]

Damian Green: The information required is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic workers accompanied diplomats on a *(a)* domestic worker (diplomat) and *(b)* Tier 5 International Agreement visa in 2010. [75672]

Damian Green: Since November 2008 overseas domestic workers accompanying diplomats can enter only through the tier 5 international agreement route.

There were 453 individuals issued with entry clearance visas under the points-based system, Tier 5 - International Agreement route in 2010. Figures for domestic workers accompanying diplomats cannot be individually identified within this category.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas issued in the calendar year 2010, together with earlier data, are given in table 'be.04' of the statistical release 'Immigration Statistics April to June 2011'. This publication is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2011/

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is provided to migrant domestic workers during the visa issuing procedure on their rights in the UK. [75674]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not advise applicants on the category of the immigration rules they should apply under. The onus is on the applicant to determine the category that is most applicable to their circumstances. The UK Border Agency website provides information on the UK immigration rules and informs applicants of their rights in the UK under every category, including domestic workers.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of embassies which have objected to migrant domestic workers they have employed changing their employer within the immigration rules. [75675]

Damian Green: Overseas domestic workers in diplomatic households are only able to switch employer within the mission. The Home Office is not aware of any embassies that have objected to overseas domestic workers switching in this way.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant domestic workers referred into the National Referral Mechanism had come to the UK on a domestic worker (diplomat) or Tier 5 entry clearance visa. [75781]

Damian Green: Between 1 April 2009 and 30 June 2011, 14 migrant domestic workers referred into the National Referral Mechanism had come to the UK on a domestic worker (diplomat) or Tier 5 entry clearance visa.

The figure quoted is internal management information only and is subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to foreign nationals from *(a)* Uganda and *(b)* the East African community in each of the last five years. [R] [76071]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Sum of issued				
Country	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Burundi	8	10	7	9	5
Kenya	1,001	912	1,038	954	914
Rwanda	60	70	70	55	58
Tanzania	1,095	911	947	582	476
Uganda	519	587	628	470	399

The data is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 505W, on the Government Procurement Card, (1) what items of procurement card spending are considered sensitive as a matter of policy; and for what reason such items are considered sensitive; [75816]

(2) which items of expenditure by her Department made on the Government Procurement Card require redaction on grounds of sensitivity; and for what reason the expenditure is considered sensitive in each case. [75833]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not have an overarching policy on the publication of transactions made on Government Procurement Cards (GPC). Each transaction would need to be assessed on a case by case basis to decide whether the information is sensitive, and therefore needs to be redacted. Information would be regarded as sensitive and redacted from publications, in the interest of national security, or if a release would breach data protection legislation.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W, on the Identity and Passport Service: Government Procurement Card, (1) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Identity and Passport Service using the Government Procurement Card was in March 2010; [75817]

(2) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the Identity and Passport Service using the Government Procurement Card in 2009-10. [75818]

Damian Green: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Salisbury (John Glen) on 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1135W: It is not possible to provide a breakdown of each GPC transactions in these years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1, placed in the House Library, provides information on spend by the Identity and Passport Service (formerly the UK Passport Agency) through the use of Government Procurement Cards (GPC) in 2009-10 by *(a)* date of purchase, by month *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier.

The Home Department is currently working to provide a consistent method of reporting GPC spend data for transactions over £500 in value dating from 1 April 2011. We expect this information to be available on our departmental website by the end of the calendar year.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 505W, on the Government Procurement Card, what estimate her Department made of the cost of providing the information requested; and what calculations her Department used in determining that the provision of the information requested would incur disproportionate cost. [75834]

Damian Green: The estimated cost of the Home Department providing a response to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 505W, on Government Procurement Card spend is £3,938. The calculation used to estimate this cost is (staff time) multiplied by (hourly rate) for grade of staff involved. To provide a response to the answer would have required Home Office staff to consider over 164,000 lines of transactional data.

Hillsborough Disaster

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make available to the Hillsborough Panel all of the briefing papers on the Hillsborough disaster which were submitted to Lady Thatcher when she was Prime Minister. [76159]

Mrs May *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* As I said in the House of Commons on 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 668-70, all Government papers have been made available, in full and uncensored, to the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

Human Trafficking

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on steps being taken by the police to encourage hotels to assist in identifying perpetrators and victims of human trafficking. [76078]

Damian Green: The Government's strategy on human trafficking sets out a commitment to exploring what further role the private sector and the public can play in tackling human trafficking.

Combating human trafficking is part of core police business and the steps taken to identify victims and offenders are operational matters for individual police forces. All new police officers receive mandatory training on trafficking and existing officers have access to awareness material.

Identity and Passport Service: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in providing compensation payments for employees dismissed from Liverpool Passport Office on 21 March 2011. [76451]

Damian Green: Originally nine of the 14 staff who had their permanent employment terminated by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on 21 March 2011 submitted claims to the Employment Tribunal for unfair dismissal. There is a three-day hearing scheduled to commence on 8 February 2012. A case management discussion was held on 30 September and an order was made for the claimants to provide schedule of losses since leaving IPS employment by 11 November. Upon receipt of the schedule of losses, Treasury Solicitors who are acting on behalf of IPS will commence negotiations with the claimants' representatives with a view to settling the Employment Tribunal claims. Compensation payable will be considered on an individual basis.

Illegal Immigrants

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of non-UK citizens entering the UK illegally or clandestinely who were not apprehended at *(a)* the Port of Dover and *(b)* the Port of Calais in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [75831]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records detections of those attempting clandestine entry. Given that any persons who were not apprehended have evaded the controls there are no records of entry or estimates of those who may have done so.

Police: Harassment Warnings

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many harassment warnings have been issued by police officers to people of each *(a)* age group, *(b)* gender, *(c)* ethnicity and *(d)* region in each year since 2006. [75720]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not recorded centrally.

Offences of harassment are governed by the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. However this legislation does not provide any formal statutory framework for Police Information Notices (also commonly referred to as 'PINs' or 'harassment warnings') and responsibility for issuing them rests with individual police forces. The Crown Prosecution Service and the National Policing Improvement Agency have published guidance on the use of PINs.

Police: Pay

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects the Chancellor's commitment to increase the pay of police staff in England and Wales earning less than £21,000 to be implemented through the Police Staff Council for England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [75785]

Nick Herbert: The Government's policy is to freeze the pay of public sector workers for two years except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of a minimum of £250. We would expect this to apply to police staff, although police staff pay is determined by police authorities and is subject to the usual negotiating processes.

Police: Pensions

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there was any change in the pension entitlement of *(a)* Sir Paul Stephenson and *(b)* John Yates following their resignation from the Metropolitan Police. [75880]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The administration of police pension schemes is a matter for the relevant police authority. No information is held centrally on any individual police officer's pension entitlement.

Police: Sports Events

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effect of planned changes to police budgets on the policing of Rugby Football Union matches at Twickenham stadium. [72356]

Nick Herbert: The police are able to charge for special police services under section 25 of the Police Act 1996. The policing of sports events is defined as a special police service for which the organisers can be charged for the police services that they have requested. The provision of policing at a sports event is a matter for the individual police force and the event organiser to agree between themselves.

Restraint Equipment: Detainees

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to review the techniques used to restrain detainees on aircraft. [76049]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency formally asked the National Tactical Response Group of the National Offender Management Service to conduct a review of the current restraint techniques being used by escort officers including those used during removals.

Officials expect to receive an interim report on the review in November 2011.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees have been injured while being restrained during deportation from the UK in *(a)* the 12 months period ending on 1 September 2011 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [76050]

Damian Green: Escort officers are trained in the use of control and restraint techniques, which are used only as a matter of last resort when all other alternatives of persuading a person to comply with their removal from the UK have failed or they need to be controlled for safety reasons.

The use of restraint is legitimate and lawful so long as its use is justified, proportionate and de-escalated at the earliest opportunity when the individual has complied. Escort officers are required to submit a report each time force has been used to restrain a detainee while being removed. However separate records are not held on injuries sustained. This could be determined only by examination of each use of force or incident report submitted at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Burglary: Sentencing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Finchley and Golders Green constituency who were convicted of burglary between September 2010 and September 2011 received custodial sentences of *(a)* under six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 and 18 months and *(d)* over 18 months. [76145]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. This centrally held information is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Court proceedings data, broken down by police force area, are currently available for the calendar year 2010. Data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Burial

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to encourage the establishment of eco-burial sites. [75268]

Mr Djanogly: In 2009 the Ministry of Justice published guidance for operators of natural burial grounds with advice on the legal and regulatory framework governing natural burial and information to ensure operators provide a high quality service to the bereaved and the wider community. The guidance is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

Establishing and providing eco-burial sites is a matter for local authorities, non profit organisations or private companies.

Community Legal Advice: Finance

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contribution his Department has made to the Cabinet Office review of advice services funding; and if he will make a statement. [75678]

Mr Djanogly: I can confirm that my Department is working closely with colleagues across Government, including the Cabinet Office, to support this work.

Coroners

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many submissions to the consultation on reforming public bodies supported full implementation of the role of chief coroner as set out in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009; [76369]

(2) how many submissions to the consultation on reforming public bodies referred to the office of the chief coroner; [76370]

(3) how many submissions to the consultation on reforming public bodies supported the Government's proposals to add the chief coroner to schedule 5 of the Public Bodies Bill. [76371]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill closed on 11 October. Of the 2,742 responses received, 2,646 referred to the Office of the Chief Coroner. 2,607 of these were identical responses from members of the public received via the Royal British Legion campaign website.

The Department intends to publish its response to the consultation by the end of this year. This will contain a summary of the responses received.

Details of the consultation can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-public-bodies.htm

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice *(a)* how many and *(b)* for what reasons claims for compensation were rejected by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last five years for which figures are available. [R] [75727]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is outlined in the following table.

Scheme paragraph	*Criterion*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
6	Injury sustained before 1 August 1964	23	24	17	15	6
7A	Previous claim for same injury	330	515	775	447	543
7B	Injury sustained in family setting before 1 October 1979	0	274	145	136	78
8A	Mainly, injury did not result from crime of violence	4,594	4,262	3,648	4,183	3,566
9	Application did not meet restrictions in paragraph	231	205	221	322	380
11	Motor vehicle cases: mainly, vehicle not used as a weapon to injure	325	321	318	346	305
12	Accidental injury sustained in law enforcement: risk not justifiable	85	64	64	123	115
13A	Failure to report without delay	1,760	1,596	1,661	2,147	1,610
13B	Failure to cooperate with police in bringing assailant to justice	5,135	4,776	4,180	5,290	4,983
13C	Failure to cooperate with the Authority	1,729	1,451	1,531	3,685	2,126
13D	Conduct before, during or after the incident	3,478	3,157	3,106	3,898	3,200
13E	Applicants criminal record/character	4,147	4,472	4,003	4,929	3,864
16A	Assailant would have benefited from award	84	91	63	108	102
16B	Award would have been against a minors interests	1	0	1	9	5
17A	Assailant in family violence/abuse claim not prosecuted	1	2	7	3	2
17B	Violence between adults in the same family	43	33	33	79	58
18	Claim not submitted within 2 years of incident	587	469	535	1,371	1,196
25	Injury not serious enough to qualify for minimum award of £1,000	8,072	8,106	8,059	10,879	8,862
26	Pre-existing medical condition	564	524	433	576	580
Total		31,189	30,342	28,800	38,546	31,581

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for compensation rejected by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority were referred to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many such applications were successful. [R] [75728]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Volume of new applications	60,861	53,290	57,753	65,445	61,292
Total number of claims rejected by CICA and appealed to the First-tier Tribunal	1,756	1,795	1,902	2,758	1,883
Total decisions overturned from those cases that go to appeal	727	723	700	920	461

These figures reflect cases where the applicant has been refused compensation, appealed to the First-tier Tribunal and the decision has been overturned. Not all appealed cases will have been heard and decided by the Tribunals Service—Criminal Injuries Compensation. The Tribunal Service may request further information, such as special medical reports, and a case can only be heard on receipt of all requested information. Cases at appeal stage still under investigation are therefore excluded from these figures.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* number of claims and *(b)* total value of claims paid to residents of Sunderland local authority through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme was in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [R] [75741]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is as follows:

	2010-11
Total claims (number)	346
Total value of awards paid (£)	922,354

These figures include applicants whose postcode is currently recorded as beginning SRI, SR2, SR3, SR4, SR5 or SR9.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75627]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice complies with the Government freeze on new advertising, marketing and communications spend. Under MOJ policy, no money can be committed to any advertising and marketing activity without a formal exemption from the freeze. Exemptions can only be provided by the Efficiency Reform Group (ERG) (for expenditure over £100,000) or from the MOJ Director of Communications (for expenditure below £100,000).

All external recruitment into MOJ, in line with the rest of the civil service, is also currently frozen. The only exceptions are front-line roles and business critical roles.

Given these controls, since May 2010, a total of £40,703.66 has been spent on advertising Ministry of Justice job vacancies. This includes all expenditure for MOJ HQ, HM Courts and Tribunals Service and the National Offender Management Service.

The 42 probation trusts and Ministry of Justice arm's length bodies are excluded from this response as their details are held separately and to gather it would exceed the cost limit. Information can be separately requested from the individual offices if required.

Civil Service: Pay

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any member of the senior civil service in his Department received a salary increase between 2009-10 and 2010-11; what the posts concerned were; and what the salary paid in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 was; [75822]

(2) whether any member of the senior civil service in his Department received a bonus in the year 2010-11; what the posts concerned were; and what bonus was paid in respect of each postholder in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [75823]

(3) whether any member of the senior civil service in his Department received a pay reduction in respect of poor performance in 2010-11; [75853]

(4) what the policy of his Department is on *(a)* paying members of the senior civil service bonuses for good performance and *(b)* pay reductions for poor performance; [75854]

(5) whether any members of the senior civil service for which his Department is responsible was paid more than the Prime Minister's ministerial salary in 2010-11; in respect of which posts such payments were made; and what the salary of such office holders was in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [75855]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The coalition Government announced in the 2010 Budget that all public sector pay would be subject to a 2-year pay freeze (except for staff who earn less than £21,000 per annum). This current freeze, which began in April this year, is in addition to the one-year freeze introduced previously by the previous Administration.

The SCS pay freeze has meant that there have been no increases to base pay awarded to senior civil servants working at the Ministry of Justice for the performance years 2009-10, 2010-11 and neither will there be for 2011-12.

For the 2010-11 performance year, 59 senior civil servants within the Ministry of Justice (including NOMS) were awarded non-consolidated performance-related payments (bonuses) as part of the end-year SCS performance management process, out of a total of 244 in scope for consideration. These 59 senior civil servants had been awarded Performance Group 1 marking as a result of the SCS end-year performance management process.

The Prime Minister, in a statement made on 16 May 2010, announced that for the senior civil service in 2010-11, the top 25% of performers (those in Performance Group 1) in each Department would be eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance-related payment (a bonus). For 2010-11, the Ministry of Justice awarded non-consolidated performance-related payments to 24.2% of those senior civil servants in scope for consideration.

(a) For the SCS performance year 2009-10, non-consolidated performance-related payments were awarded to those placed in Performance Groups 1 and 2 as part of the end-year SCS performance management process. In line with Cabinet Office guidance, non-consolidated performance-related payments were differentiated, for those in Performance Group 1 and those in Performance Group 2.

For 2009-10, 53 SCS pay bands 2 and 3 (Directors and Directors General) were awarded non-consolidated performance-related payments and 111 were awarded to SCS Pay Bands 1 and 1A (Deputy Directors). 18 members of SCS Pay Bands 2 and 3 (Directors and Directors General) were awarded Performance Group 1 and 35 were awarded Performance Group 2. 43 members of SCS pay bands 1 and 1A (Deputy Directors) were awarded Performance Group 1 and 68 were awarded Performance Group 2.

For the 2009-10 SCS performance year, the following amounts were payable to each pay band:

	Performance Group 1	*Performance Group 2*
		£
Pay Band 1	7,500	3,500
Pay Band 2	10,000	6,000
Pay Band 3	10,000	6,000

(b) For the SCS performance year 2010-11, non-consolidated performance-related payments were awarded to only those awarded Performance Group 1. 16 members of SCS pay bands 2 and 3 (Directors and Directors General) and 43 members of SCS pay bands 1 and 1A (Deputy Directors) received Performance Group 1 and therefore were awarded non-consolidated performance-related payments.

For the 2010-11 performance year, the following amounts were payable to each pay band:

SCS pay band	*Agreed non-consolidated performance-related payment (bonus) 2010-11*
	£
1/1A	7,500
2	10,000
3	12,000

No SCS members within the Ministry of Justice (including NOMS) received a pay reduction in respect of poor performance in 2010-11.

SCS staff are eligible for non-consolidated, performance-related payments. The Prime Minister, in a statement made on 16 May last year, announced that for the SCS in 2010-11, the top 25% of performers in each Department would be eligible to be considered for (could receive) a non-consolidated performance-related pay award so that in future only those making an exceptional contribution would be rewarded. This remains the position for 2011-12.

There is no mechanism under the current SCS remuneration system by which pay may be reduced for poor performance.

The Prime Minister's total remuneration package is £142,500.

In 2009-10 and 2010-11 there were 10 SCS members within the Ministry of Justice (including NOMS) who earned a basic salary of more than £142,500. In 2009-10, two were members of SCS pay band 2 (Directors), seven were members of SCS pay band 3 (Directors General) and one was the Permanent Secretary. In 2010-11, four were members of SCS pay band 2 (Directors), five were members of SCS pay band 3 (Directors General) and one was the Permanent Secretary.

For 2010-11, senior civil servant salaries for Deputy Directors, Directors, Directors General and the Permanent Secretary were published on the Ministry's website and this can be obtained through the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/senior-civil-service-salaries-and-organograms.htm

Departmental Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75712]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice publishes details of meetings that all Justice Ministers, including myself, hold with external organisations. This is published on ministerial gifts, meetings and hospitality returns on a quarterly basis and is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/index.htm

The next return (April 2011 to June 2011) has been collated and will be published in the near future.

Departmental Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74384]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No central records are held of either staff attending external training courses, or the cost of each course. Responsibility for training budgets and the booking of courses is devolved to business areas and local line managers. Collating detailed information on the number of courses and the cost of each course would incur a disproportionate.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) commissions learning and development interventions to ensure that it meets its business needs, reinforces professional standards, provides high quality learning and represents best value for money. The vast majority of business specific training is developed 'in-house' because of the specialist skills required to either work in the custodial environment, or operate our specific business processes. Generic training is sourced from civil service learning. There are occasions when it is necessary for MOJ to procure learning from an external provider.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76234]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Giving White Paper published on 23 May 2011 outlines the Government's proposals to encourage charitable giving. As part of this, all Ministry of Justice Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'One Day Challenge'—a voluntary commitment to give one day of their time to a charity or community group of their choice. I and my ministerial colleagues will fulfil this commitment over the coming months.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency have won an appeal against the withdrawal of their disability living allowance at a tribunal in the latest period for which figures are available. [75826]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not hold data specific to the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency. However, the majority of appeals against a Department for Work and Pensions

(DWP) decision on an individual's entitlement to disability living allowance, made by people in this constituency, are heard in the Social Security and Child Support First-tier Tribunal hearing venue in Hamilton. This venue also hears appeals from other nearby locations.

Between April 2011 and August 2011, the most recent period for which figures are available, there were 510 appeals against a DWP decision on an individual's entitlement to disability living allowance decided at hearing in the Hamilton hearing venue, of which 180 were found in favour of the appellant.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his contribution of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 984, on the second reading of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, when he plans to provide details of the fund for not-for-profit legal advice centres. [75680]

Mr Djanogly: Further to the announcement made by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 984, I can confirm that the Cabinet Office is responsible for the distribution of the England portion of the £20 million fund for not-for-profit advice providers. Cabinet Office officials are working with the Treasury and my Department on agreeing the criteria for funding. Further details of the funding criteria and process will be announced by the Cabinet Office in the next few weeks.

Magistrates: Training

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* the Judicial Studies Board and *(b)* training for magistrates in respect of new sentencing guidelines in the last 12 months. [76183]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: From 1 April 2011, training for judicial office holders in the courts and in most tribunals became the responsibility of the Judicial College. The Judicial College was created by bringing together separate arrangements that had previously existed for training judicial office holders in the courts (the Judicial Studies Board) and Tribunals Service (through the Tribunals Judicial Training Group).

The total expenditure for the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) for the period 2010-11 was £6,759,000. A summary of the expenditure for the JSB is shown in the annual report for 2010-11 which is available on the Judiciary website at:

www.judiciary.gov.uk

Financial data for 2011-12 will be available next.

The only new sentencing guidelines within the last 12 months that the Judicial College has provided training material for are the new assault sentencing guidelines which came into effect on 13 June 2011. Training materials were distributed to magistrates' courts in April and were then delivered locally by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) trainers. Costs actually incurred by HMCTS in the delivery of this training will not be provided to the Judicial College until the end of the current financial year.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against benefit decisions in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK are outstanding and awaiting processing. [75748]

Mr Djanogly: Appeals against benefit decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions are heard by the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS).

There are always a number of 'live' appeals in the SSCS Tribunal at different stages of processing. The number of live SSCS appeals in Scotland at 31 August 2011, the most recent period for which statistics have been published, was 13,300. In the UK, excluding Northern Ireland where appeals are heard by The Tribunals Service Northern Ireland, there were 168,400 live cases at 31 August 2011.

These figures do not include cases that have been lodged with the Department for Work and Pensions for reconsideration of their decision but which have not yet been referred to the Tribunal.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73996]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice funds many different civil sector organisations and has correspondence with many more. The number of letters referring to both successful and unsuccessful funding bids and to funding issues in general is not monitored by the Department.

The Department is funding various civil sector organisations over the three financial years 2011-14 in the policy areas of legal aid, reducing reoffending, victims and witnesses, coroners and international.

Victim Support

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to his Department's press notice of 26 September 2011, what methodology his Department used to determine the total sum to be raised from prisoners' earnings for the purposes of funding victim support services; [75639]

(2) what the average annual cash payment to an individual prisoner through the new victims' levy is likely to be in *(a)* the next 12 months and *(b)* each of the next five years; [75729]

(3) how many prisoners will have to pay the victims' levy from their earnings in *(a)* the next 12 months and *(b)* each of the next five years; [75730]

(4) what estimate he has made of the revenue likely to be raised for victim support by the levy on prisoner earnings in (a) the next 12 months and *(b)* each of the next five years. [75731]

Mr Blunt: Our expectation, that deductions under the Prisoner's Earnings Act 1996 will generate up to £1 million per year, was informed by prisoner earnings data that were collected from those prisoners working out of Category D prisons in summer 2010. This remains our best estimate of revenue for the next 12 months and we have assumed that this figure remains constant over time in real terms, which may not in fact prove to be the case.

Prisoner earnings vary considerably depending on hourly rates and hours worked; therefore there will be large variations in the amount each prisoner contributes, depending on their earnings. For a prisoner working full-time on the national minimum wage deductions through the Prisoners' Earnings Act would be approximately £65 a week or approximately £3,000 per year.

At the time of the prisoner earnings data collection in summer 2010 there were 459 prisoners in Category D prisons whose earnings would have been eligible for deductions under the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996. This remains our best yearly estimate.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what mechanism he put in place to ensure the process for the allocation of proceeds from the levy on prisoners' earnings was transparent; [75726]

(2) what criteria he considered when deciding that the proceeds from the levy on prisoners' earnings would be given to Victim Support; [75732]

(3) what services Victim Support is contracted to provide from the proceeds of the levy on prisoners' earnings in *(a)* the next 12 months and *(b)* each remaining year of the arrangements under which they receive such funding; [75733]

(4) whether other organisations from the voluntary and charitable sector were given an opportunity to bid for a share of the proceeds from the levy on prisoners' earning; [75734]

(5) whether he will place in the Library a copy of the contract his Department made with Victim Support in respect of the proceeds from the levy on earnings of prisoners; and if he will make a statement; [75736]

Mr Blunt: The Prisoners' Earnings Act (PEA) enables deductions from prisoners' earnings in certain circumstances pending the introduction of a wider power to do so which is contained in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill currently before Parliament.

It is a statutory requirement of the PEA that the recipient or recipients of its proceeds is/are formally prescribed by the Secretary of State. He has prescribed that the funds should go to Victim Support.

The Coalition programme for government and the Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle', published by the Ministry of Justice in December 2011, committed to implementing the Act with the aim of deductions from the earnings of prisoners going towards services which support victims.

In deciding which organisation or organisations to prescribe we took account of the uncertainty about the amount of revenue the PEA would generate which results from the difficulty in predicting how many prisoners would be engaged in qualifying work. This uncertainty rendered the PEA revenue unsuitable for a competitive funding process. It also meant that any prescribed organisation needed to possess sufficient capacity to deliver the project or projects the PEA was intended to fund if the revenue actually raised proved lower than anticipated.

As the PEA represents the first time prisoners have contributed in this way we wanted the proceeds to go to an organisation which worked nationally with a broad range of victims of crime. Victim Support is the principal provider of support for victims in England and Wales and has over 35 years' experience of the sector. Its national coverage and size made it the ideal choice.

The Ministry of Justice has not entered into a contract with Victim Support for the PEA revenue. Victim Support is currently considering a number of potential projects and will make a final decision once it is known how much revenue will be raised through the levy. A contract will be entered into at that time, prior to the money raised from the PEA being passed to Victim Support.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adam Werritty

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty in an official capacity *(a)* with and *(b)* without officials present since May 2010. [76433]

Robert Neill: No Ministers in this Department have had meetings with Mr Werritty.

Council Tax: Arrears

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times local authorities have taken people to court for the recovery of council tax arrears in the latest period for which figures are available. [76265]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect figures on the number of times local authorities have taken people to court for the recovery of council tax arrears.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74955]

Robert Neill: The expenses are published quarterly on the DCLG website as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/staffdata/businessexpenses/

The expenses are usually published within the month after the quarter ending. The expenses for July to September are currently being compiled and will be available at a later date.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74343]

Robert Neill: In July 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government paid 90.85% of invoices within 10 days of receipt and in August 2010 90.24% of invoices were paid within 10 days.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74989]

Robert Neill: The average cost of processing the payment of an invoice, based on data for the last 12 months is £2.62. Of the invoices processed by DCLG in that period, 99.998% were made electronically with just 0.002% paid by cheque.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73097]

Robert Neill: In line with Cabinet Office guidance, the Department has placed an immediate freeze on consulting expenditure, unless it is of operational necessity and the work cannot be undertaken by civil servants.

Procedures have been introduced whereby Ministers and the permanent secretary review all consultancy contracts of £20,000 or more on a three-monthly basis and ensuring that any proposals to extend contracts longer than nine months are jointly approved by the Cabinet Office Minister and Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Procurement procedures that can be used include:

Use of the new Government Dynamic Marketplace;

Call off from existing government frameworks; and

Open restricted or other EU procedures for bespoke requirements above the EU threshold of approximately £100,000

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74901]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not relocated any civil servants, nor agreed to relocate any civil servants, in the last 12 months.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75702]

Robert Neill: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis, and are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyin government/ministerialdata/

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings he has had with *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* construction firms, *(c)* firms providing services to local authorities and *(d)* lobbyists since May 2010. [76102]

Robert Neill: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis, and are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyin government/ministerialdata/

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74902]

Robert Neill: DCLG staff do not receive either a London weighting or a London living allowance. Like many other Departments, DCLG operates a London pay range (for staff based in London and surrounding areas) and a national pay range.

It would not be appropriate to calculate the cost of employing equivalent London staff working outside of London as this would be purely hypothetical.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75120]

Robert Neill: Government take cyber security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber Security Programme, working across Departments with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

Department for Communities and Local Government routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework; these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

Refuse Collection

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department used to cost the proposal for weekly bin collections; and whether the funding for the proposal will come from his Department's existing budget. [76344]

Robert Neill: The new weekly collections support scheme, announced on 30 September will make up to £250 million available to councils to help them deliver weekly collections of household waste. The scheme will be funded by money from DCLG's unallocated resource budget as reported in the annual report and accounts for 2010-11. This is therefore additional funding for local government over and above that already announced.

The funding will support councils which switch from fortnightly to better weekly collections, and will support weekly collection councils which wish to keep and improve the weekly service they offer, such as through better procurement, new technologies and reward schemes like Recyclebank and others.

In due course, we will make a further statement on the detail of this scheme and the details for inviting councils to submit innovative bids for funding. However, councils will be able to bid individually or in consortiums, and with the private sector, where that increases value for money. In order to encourage the most innovative and locally tailored solutions, authorities will be able to bid for a mix of revenue and capital funding.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to provide better and more frequent rubbish and recycling collections. [76733]

Robert Neill: As announced on the 30 September, we are launching a new Weekly Collections Support scheme worth up to £250 million to councils to help them deliver weekly collections of household waste.

The funding will support councils which switch from fortnightly to better weekly collections, and will support weekly collection councils which wish to keep and improve the weekly service they offer, such as through better procurement, new technologies and reward schemes like Recyclebank and others. Councils will be able to bid individually or in consortiums, and with the private sector, where that increases value for money. In order to encourage the most innovative and locally tailored solutions, authorities will be able to bid for a mix of revenue and capital funding.

We are funding this scheme from DCLG's unallocated resource budget, as reported in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2010-11. Further details of this scheme, inviting councils to submit innovative bids for funding, will be released in due course.

Furthermore, the Government have already moved to remove Audit Commission guidance and inspections which marked down councils who do not adopt fortnightly rubbish collections; and to abolish Local Area Agreements imposed by Whitehall which created perverse incentives to downgrade waste collection services.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73219]

Robert Neill: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Enterprise Zones: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the information his Department holds on the expression of interest relating to the Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent LE2 submission; [71203]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the information his Department holds on the bid by the Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent Local Enterprise Partnership in respect of the LE2 Round 2 bid process. [71204]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Local Enterprise Partnership have advised that their expression of interest and bid documents contain information that is commercially confidential. However, the summary document which the partnership shared with a number of local MPs, including the hon. Member, will be published on the Local Enterprise Partnership's website shortly.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the publication of his Department's Government procurement card data, which Ministers attended *(a)* Boisdales, *(b)* Brassiere 44, *(c)* the National Cafe and *(d)* the Wolseley using the Government procurement card between May 2006 and May 2010; and what the (i) cost and (ii) purpose was of each event. [73223]

Robert Neill: The events at the Wolseley on 2 December 2008 and 5 June 2009 were attended by Baroness Andrews and officials of the Department. I am informed that the first was to discuss the handling of forthcoming legislation, and the second was to discuss the handover of policy portfolios.

Detailed records for the event or attendance at the Boisdale on 3 April 2008 are not held. The transaction was made by the private office of Baroness Andrews.

No Ministers attended the other events.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government procurement card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Housing Benefit: Universal Credit

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to consult representatives of local authority trade unions on the plan for transition from housing benefit to universal credit. [75777]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to engage with trade unions under agreed local arrangements for consultation. We are engaging with local authorities to understand the changes that will arise as a result of transition to universal credit, which will inform these dialogues.

Housing: Change of Use

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Government will accept the recommendations in the Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing on allowing local planning committees to decide on change of use from local residency to holiday let or second home. [76068]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 21 October 2011]*: The Government response to the Taylor Review was published under the last Administration. That response stated:

> "The Government does not agree that it is appropriate or desirable to seek to limit the occupation or ownership of second homes."

The Community Right to Build Order set out in the Localism Bill will contribute to affordable housing in rural areas. It will allow communities to take forward small-scale development on a specific site so long as the proposal has received majority support in a community referendum.

Landlords

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the effectiveness of landlord accreditation schemes. [76046]

Grant Shapps: The Department does not hold information on the effectiveness of landlord accreditation schemes which are set up and run by local authorities. Local authorities are best placed to judge the needs and priorities of their own area and the effectiveness of local schemes. Information about schemes is also available from ANUK (Accreditation Network-UK) which was formed to publicise, promote and share good practice in accreditation.

Metals: Theft

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on dealing with metal theft. [73150]

Robert Neill: DCLG does not issue any guidance to local authorities on dealing with metal theft. Guidance issued to address metal theft would be most associated with the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and this policy rests with the Home Office.

The Government recognise the severity of metal theft and the damage it causes to communities and businesses across the UK. It is clear that metal theft is a growing problem for many communities, and local authorities themselves are often victims from metal theft, in particular, with the theft of street furniture.

Discussions are now taking place across Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in order to address this.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the mortgage rescue scheme; how many successful applications there have been since its inception; and what proportion of all applications this figure represents. [76035]

Grant Shapps: The Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme is designed to be an option of last resort for vulnerable homeowners who are at risk of repossession and homelessness. The Government reviewed the scheme in July 2010, and again in February 2011, and made changes to improve the value for money by reducing unit costs to ensure that the scheme can help as many households as possible.

I refer my hon. Friend to the National Audit Office report of May 2011 (HC 1030, 2010-12) which was critical of the scheme that was introduced by the last Government, for not delivering value for money. Such criticisms vindicate the decision of the new administration to reform and improve the scheme.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme statistics published in May 2011 and covering the period up to the end of March 2011 show that 2,621 households have completed the process to remain in their home. These published statistics also show that almost 39,000 households had received free advice from their local authority about their mortgage difficulties.

The Homes and Communities Agency will publish the Scheme statistics for the period April to September 2011 in November. These will show the latest number of cases referred from providers (lead Housing Associations) and the number of cases which have led to completion.

Non-domestic Rates

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of disproportionate benefit he plans to use when recouping business rates from local authorities as proposed in his Department's consultation on retention of business rates. [76612]

Robert Neill: The Government's proposals for business rates retention sought views on how a levy on disproportionate benefit might be calculated in order to help provide a safety net to protect authorities that see significant negative volatility in their business rates income. The consultation, which closes on 24 October, proposed three options. The Government will consider responses to that consultation before deciding how to take forward the proposals.

Planning Permission

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that the national planning policy framework (1) meets the development needs of people, the environment and the economy; [73709]

(2) requires developers to take into consideration the effects of planning proposals on *(a)* communities, *(b)* nature and *(c)* the landscape. [73710]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It states that, for the planning system, delivering sustainable development means building a strong, responsive competitive economy; promoting strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. These three components should be pursued in an integrated way, looking for solutions that achieve multiple goals.

The draft framework also states that, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.

Property Development: Floods

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of including internal drainage boards and water utility companies in North East Cambridgeshire as statutory consultees when assessing flooding risk associated with planning development. [76182]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Department have no plans at present to amend the statutory consultation arrangements for planning applications, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010, to require consultation with drainage boards and water utility companies on planning applications.

The Government expect local planning authorities to work with infrastructure providers from an early stage in the local plan process to ensure that they are actively involved in shaping its proposals. Drainage boards and utility companies may also wish to work with local authorities to identify individual planning applications where consultation with drainage boards and water utility companies would be beneficial.

Rights of Way

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his proposals under the National Planning Policy Framework recognise public rights of way; how such rights of way will be enforced under the Framework; and if he will make a statement. [75740]

Greg Clark: Paragraph 128 of the draft framework states that planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and access. We are currently considering responses to the consultation on the draft framework before this is finalised.

Private Sector Rented Property

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to protect tenants in respect of *(a)* private rented sector landlords and *(b)* estate agents who are found to be in breach of his Department's guidance on the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. [75659]

Grant Shapps: My Department's guidance on the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants reflects the existing legislative framework which already contains safeguards for tenants where landlords or agents fail in their responsibilities.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to promote his Department's guidance on the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants among *(a)* landlords, *(b)* tenants and *(c)* estate agents in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [75660]

Grant Shapps: My Department recently published fact sheets providing basic guidance on rights and responsibilities for both tenants and landlords on the departmental website:

www.communities.gov.uk

The fact sheets have been promoted to a range of industry and consumer groups, and we are encouraged to see that they are being well used. Where appropriate, landlords, tenants and agents are also directed to the fact sheets in all correspondence between my Department and the general public.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1089W, on consumers, what support his Department offers to *(a)* blind and partially-sighted tenants and *(b)* tenants with a disability to make them aware of the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants; and if he will make a statement. [75978]

Grant Shapps: My Department's fact sheets for landlords and tenants were published on the departmental website:

www.communities.gov.uk

which complies with the Worldwide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The Department's published documents are always available in alternative formats—Braille, large print, easy read, British Sign Language and audio versions can all be provided on request.

Guidance for landlords and tenants is also available on the Government website Directgov, which is an accessible website. Details can be obtained from:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Hl1/Help/Accessibility/DG_10016906

Directgov's content is written for a reading age of nine which aids understanding for those with learning difficulties.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing Reform

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she plans to publish her Department's response to the consultation on Air Travel Organisers' Licensing reform; [73941]

(2) how many responses her Department received in the consultation on Air Travel Organisers' Licensing reform; [73942]

(3) how many representations received during the consultation process on Air Travel Organisers' Licensing reform expressed concern about the date by which the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing certificate would be implemented. [73944]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely roll-out time for the proposed ATOL certificate. [74094]

Mrs Villiers: The Department received over 80 formal responses to the recent consultation on proposals for reform of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme.

After considering the consultation responses I plan to announce the decisions for the way forward for ATOL reform, including the timing of implementation. This announcement will be made later in the autumn.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the level of consumer awareness of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme. [73946]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has not conducted any research specifically into consumer awareness of the current Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme.

However, the 2011 ABTA Consumers Trends Survey showed that 74% of people believe that ATOL financial protection is 'essential or important' when booking a holiday.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she proposes to widen the scope of the air travel organisers' licensing scheme to flight and hotel holidays sold by airlines. [73949]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to bring forward legislation on including holidays sold by airlines within a scheme of financial protection. [74088]

Mrs Villiers: The ATOL reform consultation, which took place between 23 June and 15 September 2011, asked whether airline holiday sales should be brought under the protection of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme. To do so would require new primary legislation. We are analysing the responses and plan to announce the decision on this later in the autumn.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish details on the information required on an ATOL certificate. [74093]

Mrs Villiers: The information requirements for the ATOL certificate are being decided through consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL Certificate Working Group, which includes members of the travel industry. The CAA will publish full details on the appearance and content of the ATOL certificate later in the autumn.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to exempt business travel from the reformed ATOL scheme; and if she will make a statement. [74097]

Mrs Villiers: The Government consulted on proposed reforms to the Air Travel Organisers Licensing (ATOL) scheme between 23 June and 15 September 2011. The treatment of business travel under the proposed reforms is an issue mentioned in a number of consultation responses.

I am currently considering all the responses and plan to make an announcement on the way forward with the reforms later in the autumn.

Air Travel Trust Fund

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date she expects the Air Travel Trust Fund to return to surplus. [74092]

Mrs Villiers: The Air Travel Trust Fund (ATTF) meets the costs of refunds and repatriation assistance provided to the consumers of insolvent businesses under the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme.

The Civil Aviation Authority run the ATOL scheme and believes that the ATTF should return to surplus within three years of the introduction of the proposed reforms which were recently consulted on by the Government. The actual timing depends on factors such as the cost of future insolvencies of ATOL licensed businesses and the Fund's income, both of which are difficult to predict with certainty.

Aviation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable she has established for the commencement of pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Aviation Bill. [74096]

Mrs Villiers: As the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), set out in his statements to the House on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 20-22WS and 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 42WS, we plan to introduce legislation early in the next session to reform the existing statutory framework for regulation at designated airports. We intend to publish draft legislation later this year. Further details will be announced in due course.

Aviation: Tickets

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations she has received on *(a)* the legality of downgrading customers if a commercial flight is oversold and *(b)* the appropriateness of a statutory obligation to provide 75% compensation; [75546]

(2) whether she has considered steps to tackle overselling on commercial flights. [75547]

Mrs Villiers: Overbooking is a widespread practice among full-service scheduled airlines. In the comparatively small proportion of cases where an airline denies passengers boarding against their will, EC Regulation 261/2004 requires air carriers to provide prescribed minimum levels of financial compensation, in addition to offering passengers a choice between re-routeing and reimbursement. These rules are enforced by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Freight

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department is taking steps to increase the volume of rail freight that can be transported between Britain and Europe via the channel tunnel. [76483]

Mrs Villiers: UK channel tunnel freight paths became open access in 2006 and Eurotunnel subsequently agreed lower rates for rail freight. These initiatives have increased the number of rail freight services through the channel tunnel, some of which are operated by new open access operators. The continued development of rail freight through channel tunnel is a matter for the private sector operators.

Civil Aviation Authority

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Authority. [75545]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers and officials at the Department meet the Civil Aviation Authority regularly to discuss a range of issues including its duties and performance. There have been a number of changes to the CAA's internal arrangements following the report of the independent strategic review undertaken by Sir Joseph Pilling in 2008. Other reforms would require primary legislation.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional vehicles her Department expects will use the Dartford Crossing during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games; and what plans she has to manage the change in the number of such vehicles. [75850]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not anticipate significant increases in traffic volumes at the Dartford-Thurrock river during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The transport strategy for the 2012 games promotes the use of public transport and the Highways Agency is working closely with the Olympic Delivery Authority on the delivery of that strategy.

The plans for spectator transport include the provision of strategic park and ride sites either side of the crossing at Lakeside and Ebbsfleet—the latter providing a connection to the nearby Javelin rail shuttle from Ebbsfleet International station.

The crossing forms part of the 'alternative' section of the Olympic Route Network and as such will be used by vehicles transporting athletes, officials and the media in the event that the main core and venue routes are not available for any reason.

East Coast Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual cost has been to Directly Operated Railways of operating the East Coast mainline rail franchise; and how much was paid in subsidies to National Express in each year that it held the East Coast rail franchise. [76486]

Mrs Villiers: The cost to Directly Operated Railways (DOR) of providing management services to the East Coast Main Line Company Ltd is set out in DOR's annual report and accounts. These are available on the company's website at:

www.directlyoperatedrailways.co.uk

No subsidy was paid to National Express during the period that the company held the East Coast rail franchise

Great Western Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's announcement of 14 July 2011, what the monetary value is of each project that forms part of her plans for the Great Western Main Line; and what the completion date is for each such project. [76597]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have committed to funding a significant upgrade of the Great Western Main Line between now and 2019.

Doubling of the Swindon to Kemble line will be complete by 2015 at a cost of £45 million. Reading station improvements will be delivered by 2015 at a cost of £850 million. Electrification will be ready for passenger service by 2017 at a cost of £1 billion.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that High Speed 2 will be used at maximum capacity from its first day of operation. [75197]

Justine Greening: We anticipate that demand for HS2 would be likely to continue to grow in the years after the line opens. Therefore, it is important to provide additional capacity at opening in order to accommodate this build-up. If, following my decisions later this year, the project is progressed, we will seek to ensure HS2 is designed so as to maximise its attractiveness to passengers.

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many services she expects to run in each direction on High Speed 2 per *(a)* hour and *(b)* day on its first day of operation. [75206]

Justine Greening: Phase 1 of the proposed HS2 network, from London to the West Midlands, would operate with up to 14 trains per hour in each direction at peak times and 10 during off peak periods. Indicative timetables are set out in the "Technical Appendix", at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/high-speed-rail/key-facts/

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Finance

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the saving on the costs of the HS2 project which would arise if the tunnel from Old Oak Common to Euston and the infrastructure and building works at Euston were omitted. [75501]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* Appendix C of HS2 Ltd's 2009 Cost and Risk Model shows an indicative breakdown of costs for different sections of the route, including the route from Old Oak Common to Euston, and the works that would be required at Euston station. This can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/riskmodel/pdf/report.pdf

London and South Eastern Railway: Rolling Stock

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which companies the London and South Eastern Railway and its predecessor franchisees have leased rolling stock; how many and what types of rolling stock have been leased; and what the costs of such leasing has been in each year since 1994. [75868]

Mrs Villiers: Information on the numbers and different types of rolling stock leased by train companies, and from whom, is in the public domain. For example, the Rail Guide 2011 produced by Ian Allan Publishing.

Leasing costs are commercially sensitive. Inquiries on this subject should be directed to the rolling stock owners and train operators.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will withdraw her Department's proposals to increase the speed limit on motorways to 80 miles per hour. [75875]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* On 3 October 2011, the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), announced his intention to consult on raising the national speed limit on motorways from 70 mph to 80 mph. The Government plan to launch a full public consultation on the issue later this year with a view to implementing any change in early 2013.

Railways

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to support the domestic *(a)* train manufacturing industry and its supply chain and *(b)* onshore engineering skills. [75234]

Mrs Villiers: This Government have secured funding for a major programme of capacity enhancement for both National Rail and the London Underground. Moreover the Government are reforming the franchise system which is likely to lead to more train operators procuring new rolling stock. These are major opportunities for the train manufacturing industry and its associated supply chain, which will see around 2700 new carriages on the national rail network by 2019.

Moreover as part of our growth review the Government are examining issues around the approach taken in the UK to EU procurement rules. This is to compare our approach to that of other member states. We are looking at whether current procurement practice makes the best use of the rules. We are considering whether any changes should be made to place a sharper focus on the UK's strategic interests. The review is also looking at how the Government can support train manufacturing and related supply chain businesses and ensure that when they compete for work they are doing it on an equal footing with their overseas competitors.

Railways: Fares

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average fare was for a standard class passenger rail ticket between London and Edinburgh in each year since 1997. [75786]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold this information, however the present range of fares for the main ticket categories are set out as follows.

		£
Fare Type	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
Advance single	14.50	179.50
Anytime return	292.00	292.00
Super off peak return	114.60	—
Off peak return	202.70	—

Typically over 90% of the longest distance rail journeys such as Edinburgh to London are made using discounted tickets. Under 5% of these longer journeys are made using anytime return tickets. The super off peak return between Edinburgh and London is a regulated fare. The full list and present prices of all these fares is available on the National Rail enquiries website.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with train operating companies regarding the length of time that can be defined as peak hour when setting fare prices. [76493]

Mrs Villiers: The length of time that can be defined as peak is set out in franchise agreements for regulated fares.

It is up to train operators to work within the regulations when setting their peak time. Peak restrictions on unregulated fares are for train operators to determine.

Railways: Overcrowding

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent measures she has considered to alleviate passenger overcrowding and passenger standing on rail services. [74101]

Mrs Villiers: This Government have committed to a major new programme of introducing additional carriages across the most crowded parts of the rail network by March 2014 to meet the growing demand from passengers.

Looking beyond 2014, Thameslink and Crossrail routes have been funded with a commitment to electric new trains, releasing the existing electric trains for further use. By the end of this decade we will have added around 2,700 new carriages to the rail network, of which around 1,800 will be additional capacity. However, passenger growth is forecast to continue and that is why we are considering the case for a new high speed railway for the next decade.

Railways: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve *(a)* passenger safety at rail stations and *(b)* safety at railway level crossings following the Office of Rail Regulation's Health and Safety report 2011. [76482]

Mrs Villiers: Safety and the reduction of risks, so far as is reasonably practicable, at both stations and level crossings is the responsibility of the relevant duty holder such as the station or infrastructure operator.

This is a legal duty under the Health and Safety at Work 1974. Compliance is both monitored and enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The ORR noted the measures being taken by duty holders with regard to station and level crossing safety in their 2011 Health and Safety Report.

Separately the Department runs the Secure Stations Scheme. Over the past 13 years this scheme has put in place a best practice programme aimed at enhancing passenger safety at railway stations through security improvements. There are currently 1,263 accredited Secure Stations across the railway network.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing separate incentive schemes for biodiesel and ethanol under the renewable transport fuel obligation; [73028]

(2) what representations she has received on the merits of establishing separate incentive schemes for biodiesel and ethanol under the renewable transport fuel obligation; [73029]

(3) how she plans to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in certificate prices under the renewable transport fuel obligation on the sustainable biodiesel industry; [73030]

(4) how she plans to encourage obligated fuel suppliers to meet their renewable transport fuel obligation from biodiesel produced in the UK. [73031]

Norman Baker: The Department received representations on a number of issues related to the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) during consultations on the renewable energy directive (RED). These included suggestions that the RTFO should distinguish between bioethanol and biodiesel, arguing that if it did, this might provide a mechanism to drive equal demand for both products. The suggestion has been taken into account through the consultation exercise.

The RTFO is a mechanism designed to reduce carbon emissions and promote the supply of sustainable biofuels. It does not seek to direct the market towards a particular biofuel product or method of production.

In respect of future incentives under the RTFO and assessments of the adequacy of that mechanism in driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1172-3W.

In the consultation on proposals to implement the RED we proposed to provide additional support to waste-derived biofuels under an amended renewable transport fuel obligation. We expect to publish a Government response soon setting out both our plans and the timeline for implementation.

Trams: Level Crossings

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the implications of the Law Commission review of level crossing legislation for the scope of heavy rail level crossing requirements to tramways. [76543]

Mrs Villiers: The Law Commission will present their formal recommendations from their review to the Department during 2012. At that time the Department will consider all of the Law Commissions' final recommendations, including those on tramways.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to publish the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* equality impact assessment in respect of its proposals for the VOSA Testing Transformation Project. [74090]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) completed a generic equality impact assessment (EIA) for the station closure element of the Testing Transformation Programme (TTP) as part of the formation of the TTP business case which received final approval in July 2010. The TTP business case included an assessment of the environmental impact of the project, no separate environmental impact assessment was completed.

It is not our intention to publish this business case or the original (2009) impact assessment.

Once a site has been identified for closure, a more specific EIA is completed by the local management team, including action plans for the resolution of issues. These are living documents, addressing staff and customer issues, which will continue to evolve as the closure process progresses.

We are currently redesigning the generic assessment to take account of emerging guidance on new requirements, and will re-work all 'live' EIAs to take account of this advice. As they may contain specific and personal information (e.g. on individual members of staff), we have no plans to publish these EIAs, but they will be owned by local managers, and monitored centrally to ensure action plans address issues raised.

West Coast Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff in her Department are working on the negotiations with Virgin Rail Group on the extension of the Intercity West Coast rail franchise. [76484]

Mrs Villiers: Approximately three full-time members of Department for Transport staff are working on the negotiations with Virgin Rail Group. However, this varies slightly from time to time.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74978]

Gregory Barker: The cost of processing an invoice through our outsourced service provider is estimated at £33 per invoice. 99% of payments are made electronically and 1% by cheque.

Official Visits

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department visited Israel on official business in each month since May 2010; what future visits to Israel are planned by (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74708]

Gregory Barker: *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* There have been no such meetings held since May 2010 and none are currently planned.

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74999]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change spent £80,200 on its press cuttings service during 2011-12. The Department does not record expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines separately from overall expenditure on publications which includes the cost of the Department's own publications as well as purchased publications of all types. It would incur disproportionate costs to scrutinise all publication transactions to identify relevant amounts.

Ministerial Meetings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the *(a)* dates, *(b)* attendees and *(c)* agendas of meetings attended by the (i) Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, (ii) Minister of State for Climate Change, (iii) Minister of State for Energy and (iv) Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State between 10 October and 16 October 2011. [76610]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website. It has been the practice of successive Administrations not to release details of internal meetings.

Electricity Market Reform

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department have been seconded from energy consultancies to assist with preparation of proposals on electricity market reform; and which companies have provided such secondees. [75905]

Gregory Barker: Six members of staff have been seconded from the energy consultancies identified to assist with preparation of proposals on electricity market reform:

Poyry Management Consulting
Deloitte
Bain and Company
Bright Futures NZ Ltd
Xero Energy

Electricity: Prices

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information his Department holds on the number of prepayment meter customers who owe more than £200 to their existing supplier and are unable to switch electricity suppliers; [75409]

(2) what information his Department holds on recent trends in the number of prepayment meter customers who owe more than £200 to their supplier. [75410]

Charles Hendry: This Department does not hold the information requested. Ofgem monitors and publishes information about the number of prepayment meter customers repaying a debt (External Data Report Q1 2011). The data does not give details of the actual amount of debt repaid. During 2010, an average of 0.4 million (10%) of electricity prepayment customers, and 0.3 million (12%) of gas prepayment customers repaid a debt.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department last met representatives of the Government of Israel; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74710]

Gregory Barker: *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* There have been no such meetings.

North Sea Oil

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 685W, on North Sea oil, whether he plans to send a representative to the first meeting of the Arctic Council's Oil Spill Response Taskforce; and if he will make a statement. [76702]

Charles Hendry: As a non-Arctic country, we only have observer status on the Arctic Council and therefore have neither representation on their working groups nor a role in determining their policies. However we keep in close touch with the Council, both to learn from their experiences and, where it is welcomed, to offer our advice.

Nuclear Installations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* resources and facilities and *(b)* co-ordination and control in respect of clean-up and recovery in the event of a major accident at a UK civil nuclear installation. [75027]

Charles Hendry: The lead UK Government Department dealing with recovery in the event of a major civil nuclear accident in England is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). In Wales, it is the Welsh Assembly Government, in Scotland, the Scottish Government, and in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive. The Government Decontamination Service also would play a key role across the UK during the recovery from such an incident, while local authorities and their resilience forums would collaborate with relevant Government Departments and agencies during this phase.

Proper attention has been given to the identification of the necessary resources and facilities required should the unlikely event of an emergency occur involving a nuclear installation. The National Recovery Guidance has been developed in line with and following the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 definitions. This national guidance was produced in 2007 by the National Recovery Working Group, commissioned by Ministers. New material is added to the guidance regularly as new information and guidance becomes available.

As part of the Department's ongoing assessment and enhancement of the emergency planning and response to such incidents, we are working closely with DEFRA and other partners across Government on issues relating to the transition from the response to the recovery phase.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the report by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, September 2011, paragraph 490, on what dates and in which nuclear installations nuclear accident exercise scenarios have been extended to encompass severe accidents in order to facilitate training in Severe Accident Guidelines. [75031]

Charles Hendry: The two instances where exercise scenarios were extended into severe accident territory (paragraph 491 of the report by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations) were as follows:

> Exercise Madonna took place in 1997 at Heysham Power Station. The scenario was based on the findings from the Hinkley Point C public inquiry, which recommended that a "beyond design basis accident" scenario should be adopted that would help to improve the ability of the police and the county emergency planning department.
>
> Exercise Isis took place in May 2002 at Bradwell Power Station, and was conducted following 9/11. It tested a scenario significantly beyond the design basis and involved participation by all the major organisations with an interest at both local and national level. The exercise was successful and showed that detailed plans could be extended to deal with larger events.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the adequacy of arrangements for the pre-distribution of potassium iodate tablets to residents within the detailed emergency planning zone around nuclear installations was last reviewed; and what plans he has to undertake a future review. [75032]

Charles Hendry: The adequacy of arrangements for the pre-distribution of potassium iodate tablets to residents within the detailed emergency planning zone around nuclear installations, are being reviewed as part of the work undertaken by Department of the Energy and Climate Change on the UK's national nuclear emergency arrangements.

The distribution of iodate tablets in the vicinity of a licensed nuclear site is a matter for the site operator in liaison with the relevant regulators and health authorities.

Renewable Energy

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he proposes that local authorities will be restricted in how revenue generated through the sale of electricity to the Grid may be spent. [75230]

Charles Hendry: How local authorities spend revenue generated through the sale of electricity is determined by existing rules governing local authority expenditure.

Scottish Power: Carbon Sequestration

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the contract to be signed with the Scottish Power consortium for the first carbon capture and storage demonstration project. [73955]

Charles Hendry: The Government announced on 19 October that a decision has been made not to proceed with the proposed CCS demonstration project at Longannet. The Government remain firmly committed to CCS. There are a number of promising CCS projects proposed in England and Scotland and we expect to commence a more streamlined selection process as soon as possible. The £1 billion made available for the first project will be set aside for this new process.

Sellafield

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on security at Sellafield in *(a)* 2011-12 to date and *(b)* each of the last five years. [76434]

Charles Hendry: DECC keeps security arrangements under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust and effective. For reasons of security, we do not comment on the detail of operational security matters at individual civil nuclear sites.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the performance of each academy sponsor; and if he will make a statement; [75252]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance of each academy sponsor; and if he will make a statement. [76712]

Mr Gibb: Section 11 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty on the Secretary of State to publish an annual report containing information on academy arrangements entered into during the year, and the performance of academies during the year. We intend to publish the first annual report in spring 2012 and this will set out our assessment of the progress made by academies and free schools.

Academies: Free Schools

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of small schools that will become *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools. [74073]

Mr Gibb: We have made no estimate of the number of small schools that will be established as free schools or become academies; this number will depend on the level of demand.

Academies: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which primary schools he expects to become academies in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Dartford constituency in the 2011-12 academic year. [74758]

Mr Gibb: As of 13 October 2011, four primary schools in the Dartford constituency have been issued with an academy order: Wentworth primary school, Joydens Wood infant school, Joydens Wood junior school and Wilmington primary school. Milestone school is an all-through school and has also received an academy order. A further 21 primary schools have been issued with academy orders in Kent, 11 of which have already opened as academies. The issuing of an academy order sets an expectation that the school will convert to academy status; however it does not set a specific date for conversion.

York Road junior school and language unit in Dartford and Bell Wood primary and Oak Trees community school, elsewhere in Kent, are in the process of becoming sponsored academies in the academic year 2011-12.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the Department for Education Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Academies: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what budget his Department has allocated to academy schools in Nottinghamshire for 2011-12. [73027]

Mr Gibb: The following table sets out the funding allocated to academies in Nottinghamshire from September 2011 to August 2012. Further funding will be allocated to any new academy opening in this period.

Academy	*Open date*	*Funding allocated August 2011 to September 2012*[1] *(£)*
Samworth Church Academy	1 September 2008	5,628,048
Barnby Road Primary and Nursery school	1 October 2010	1,266,349
George Spencer Foundation School and Technology College	1 September 2010	7,429,937
Redhill School	1 December 2010	7,506,718
Serlby Academy	1 September 2011	5,108,336
South Nottinghamshire Academy	1 September 2011	3,624,678
Carlton Academy	1 September 2011	4,632,770
Worksop Norbridge Primary	1 September 2011	761,451
W/B St Edmund Campion R.C. Primary	1 September 2011	1,234,738
Wilford Becket RC School	1 September 2011	5,061,560
Arnold Hill School	1 October 2011	7,376,559
Carlton le Willows School and Technology College	1 April 2011	6,571,889
The West Bridgford School	1 April 2011	6,660,512
Toot Hill School	1 July 2011	6,968,123
The Manor School	1 August 2011	6,303,548
The National School, a C of E Technology College	1 August 2011	5,327,420
Tuxford School	1 August 2011	7,043,060
Total		88,505,694

[1] Includes: School Budget Share; Mainstreamed Grants; LACSEG; Rates; Devolved Teacher Threshold; Post-16 Funding

Free Schools: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in respect of how many free schools support staff have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme. [75778]

Mr Gibb: All free schools are under a statutory duty to ensure that all the non-teaching staff they employ are provided with access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Free Schools: West London

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* publish the funding agreement for the West London Free School. [74004]

Mr Gibb: The funding agreement for West London Free School will be published on the Department's website in due course. We have no plans to place free schools' or academies' funding agreements in the Library.

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools were below the GCSE floor target in 2011; and what proportion of pupils achieved five GCSEs at A* to C, including English and mathematics in each such school. [75253]

Mr Gibb: We do not yet have validated school level data to make an estimate of the number of schools below the key stage 4 floor standard in 2011. We expect this to be available in January 2012.

GCSE: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what average GCSE grade students in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England received in each of the last five years. [73379]

Mr Gibb: We do not calculate an average GCSE grade, but we do calculate Average Points Scores (APS) based on the qualifications taken by pupils until the end of key stage 4 (this is typically when the pupil is aged 15 at the start of the academic year). For example a GCSE Grade C is worth 40 points. The qualifications included in the APS are GCSEs and other qualifications considered to be equivalent, such as BTECs—the uncapped point score counts points from all such qualifications taken by pupils.

Information on this basis is shown in the following table:

Average GCSE and equivalents point score for pupils at the end of key stage 4 for (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England. Years: 2006-10[1,2] (final)

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Ashfield[3,4]	305.2	337.9	378.5	406.9	451.6
Nottinghamshire[3,4]	344.4	361.5	387.1	418.4	456.3
England[5]	365.1	378.2	390.2	413.6	439.0

[1] Figures for 2010 include accredited iGCSEs.
[2] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Figures for Ashfield and Nottinghamshire do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] Figures for Ashfield and Nottinghamshire include all maintained schools (including CTCs and academies).
[5] England averages also include independent schools as well as hospital schools and PRUs.
Source:
2006-10 Secondary School Performance Tables and National Pupil Database

Sex Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what guidance his Department issues to schools about the type of *(a)* material and *(b)* publications relating to sex and relationships education in school libraries; what recent representations he has received from parents about the type of material placed in school libraries on such matters; and if he will make a statement; [R] [74683]

(2) whether his Department has funded the Christopher Winter Project in 2011-12; how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority area use materials produced by the Christopher Winter Project; and if he will make a statement; [R] [74680]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to require the head teacher of a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school to show parents upon request the material used in their school to teach sex and relationships education; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74687]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not issue guidance on the type of material or publications relating to sex and relationships education being deposited in school libraries. We have not had representations from parents about the type of material being placed in school libraries on any matters.

The Department's existing guidance on "Sex and Relationship Education" states that materials used in schools must be in accordance with the law. Schools should ensure that pupils are protected from materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

The Department for Education has not provided any funding to the Christopher Winter Project. We understand that the programme is being used in a number of schools but the Department does not hold information about which schools are doing so.

We are currently reviewing personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education which includes sex and relationships education (SRE). While we do not propose to change legislation in respect of sex education as a result of the review, we will be looking at simplifying the current departmental guidance on SRE. We have received representations, in the form of correspondence sent to the Department, that some parents have concerns about materials used in primary schools. The current guidance, to which all schools providing SRE must have regard, emphasises the need for schools to work with parents when developing their programmes.

Ultimately it is for schools to decide on what is taught and how it is taught. They should ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age, maturity and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effect of sex and relationships education on pupils aged seven to 11 years of age; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74684]

Mr Gibb: Ofsted produced a report on the teaching of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, which includes sex and relationships education, in July 2010. They found that sex and relationships education was taught less well than other elements of PSHE in both primary and secondary schools. Inspectors said

> 'The picture in the primary schools visited was variable in terms of pupils' age-appropriate understanding of sex and relationships education'.

The Department is reviewing PSHE, and will be looking at its current guidance on sex and relationships education as part of the review.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence his Department has gathered on the effects of sex and relationships education in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools on the number of teenage pregnancies; and if he will make a statement. [R] [74686]

Sarah Teather: The under 18 conception rate in England is declining and is at the lowest level for nearly 30 years. It is not possible to identify a causal link between sex and relationships education in primary or secondary schools and England's reduction in teenage pregnancies. However, international evidence and lessons from local areas where teenage pregnancy rates have fallen fastest, indicate that in order to avoid teenage pregnancies, young people need:

> a comprehensive programme of SRE, which: promotes the benefits of delaying first sex; provides young people with the knowledge and skills to resist pressure from peers and the media; and informs them about contraception, so that they can avoid unplanned pregnancies and STIs when they do become sexually active; combined with
>
> access to young people-centred contraceptive and sexual health (CASH) services, in locations and at times that fit with young people's lives; and which offer the full range of contraceptive options, including long-acting contraceptive methods.

We still have high teenage pregnancy rates compared with many other western European countries. Local areas should maintain their efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy rates further as part of their ambition to tackle child poverty and health inequalities, and to learn from those areas which have achieved significant reductions. We will be saying more about this in the forthcoming Positive for Youth Policy Document and the Sexual Health Policy Document.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum bursary is for PGCE students starting in (i) September 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015; and what criteria are applied to the awarding of such bursaries. [75737]

Mr Gibb: Details of the training bursary arrangements for PGCE trainees starting courses in September 2011 were announced by the Department on 31 January 2011 and set out in a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to the Chief Executive of the Training and Development Agency for Schools on the same date. The letter confirmed that in 2011/12 £9,000 bursaries are available for PGCE trainees in mathematics, physics, chemistry and engineering while those on biology, combined/general science and modern foreign languages courses can receive £6,000 bursaries. All PGCE students can apply for the same student support as undergraduate students, including maintenance loans and means-tested grants.

The cost of providing bursaries for postgraduate trainees that started courses in September 2010 is £151.3 million. The cost of providing bursaries for postgraduate trainees that started courses in September 2011 is £59.5 million.

Our discussion document "Training our next generation of outstanding teachers" sets out proposals for reforming initial teacher training, including providing bursaries designed to make training to teach more attractive to the most talented graduates, especially in shortage subjects, from 2012/13. The proposals set out a bursary rate of between £4,000 and £20,000 depending on the degree classification of the trainee and the subject specialism or phase of the postgraduate course. We expect to announce the final arrangements for 2012/13 shortly. The bursaries will continue to be adjusted regularly according to the size of the pool of potential teachers and the demand from schools for new teachers.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average budget per student is in maintained schools in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [75435]

Mr Gibb: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Ashfield as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on the average budget per student in maintained schools in Nottinghamshire local authority and England is shown in the following table:

Average budget share per pupil by phase of education for 2011-12

£

	Nottinghamshire	*England*
Nursery	4,920	7,541
Primary	3,686	4,024
Secondary	4,768	5,090
Special	19,837	18,026
Total	4,289	4,667

Schools: Armed Forces

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that military families are not disadvantaged by the schools admission code. [74055]

Mr Gibb: We are determined that those who serve in the armed forces, and their families, should not be disadvantaged when they seek to secure a school place for their children. That is why we consulted upon reforms to the admissions code that would allow admission authorities to include the children of service families as an exception to the infant class size regulations. We have also changed the code to require local authorities and admission authorities to treat a service family as resident in their area as soon as proof of posting has been provided. In addition, we intend to remove the requirement that local authorities manage the processing of in-year applications, which would capture many service families. Instead, these families will be supported through information and paperwork by the local authority to enable them to apply directly to the schools in their area. This should mean a faster outcome for those parents in finding a place for their child than at present.

Subject to the parliamentary process, we expect the new admissions and appeals codes to come into force in February 2012 and to take full effect on applications for the September 2013 intake onwards.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75705]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have had many meetings with a range of organisations in the last 17 months. Details of my meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis with those for June 2011 to be published shortly.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the potential for co-operation between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Identity and Passport Service, Royal Mail and electoral registration officers on steps to increase the level of electoral registration; and if he will make a statement. [75897]

Mr Harper: The Government are assessing a range of measures they believe have potential to support the introduction of individual electoral registration and improve the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register.

The Government are currently running 22 data matching schemes. These schemes enable the participating local authorities to test the usefulness of certain public authority databases, including those of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and Royal Mail, in improving the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

With the schemes still in progress and the outcomes of the Electoral Commission, Cabinet Office and local authority evaluations still some time away, it is too early to draw any conclusions about the potential usefulness to electoral registration officers of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and Royal Mail databases. Support from the Identity and Passport Service in the introduction of individual electoral registration is also being considered as part of the Cabinet Office's preparations.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* winding-up orders were made in each individual court in the five years up to 31 March 2011. [76133]

Mr Davey: The table, which will be placed in the Libraries of the House, provides a breakdown of the bankruptcy and winding up orders made in each individual court covering the period July 2008 until March 2011. Due to changes in the Insolvency Services IT systems no data (split by the court in which the order was made) prior to this date are available.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcy restriction orders and undertakings were obtained in each of the last five financial years; and how many of them in each such year were obtained for *(a)* less than five years, *(b)* five to nine years and *(c)* over nine years. [76134]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service does not record the data requested broken down according to the periods specified. However, the data is recorded broken down according to similar periods and is provided in the following table.

Bankruptcy restrictions by period

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
1-5 years	1,384	1,440	1,287	1,407	1,296
6-10 years	459	367	449	501	449
11-15 years	24	20	45	40	51
Total	1,867	1,827	1,781	1,948	1,796

SMEs

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. [74730]

Mr Prisk: We are promoting growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in a number of ways:

Removing barriers to growth

We have introduced an extensive public thematic review of the existing stock of regulation through the Red Tape Challenge website, providing businesses with the opportunity to tell Government which regulations are working and which are not. From 3 to 19 October the spotlight is on employment-related law. Retail was the first theme to go live in early April, resulting in the removal or simplification of over half the 257 retail regulations.

We have introduced a moratorium exempting micro (fewer than 10 employees) and start-up businesses from new domestic regulation for three years from 1 April 2011.

From 2012, the qualifying period for unfair dismissals will be extended from 12 months to two years.

Providing people with the advice and guidance they need to grow their business

We are transforming the way that we enable people to receive the information, advice and guidance they need to start and grow their business.

Our new approach to Government services and advice for business is based on:

digital services which provide the best advice available and accessible when businesses need them; and

advice provided by business people for business people, not by the public sector.

We have been working with the British Bankers Association (BBA) to launch:

www.mentorsme.co.uk

which provides a single, easy to use search engine to find organisations offering mentoring services to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). And we are supporting a massive expansion of the number of mentors available to SMEs.

In addition we are:

revamping the Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

setting up a dedicated "My New Business" area on the website to provide training and information for those looking to start a business—with the best video and interactive advice produced by experts and available 24/7; and

setting up a new Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) programme to enable small businesses with high growth potential to realise their potential.

Finding new markets

Export markets are vital to growth. Under this Government, UKTI has introduced a comprehensive offer for SMEs to help them export. This includes:

Passport to Export—is a trade development programme offering new and inexperienced exporters help and support to build the capability to start exporting proactively and make their first visit to an export market. Launched in 2001, it is delivered by International Trade Advisers (ITAs) in England and has helped around 14,000 SMEs.

Gateway to Global Growth—offers experienced SME exporters the opportunity to increase their exporting skills and awareness of what is on offer from UKTI and private sector suppliers. The aim is to help them enter more difficult markets or expand in existing ones. The approach is similar to Passport, but aimed at innovative SME exporters with two to 10 years' export experience, ready to widen and diversify their overseas business. It was launched in 2009 and nearly 3,000 companies had been signed on to the programme.

The Overseas Market Introduction Service—provides assistance for businesses of all sizes from posts overseas and is chargeable but at a subsidised rate. This is available to all sizes of companies but approximately 85% of users are SMEs.

Market Visit Support—provides assistance to new to export and/or new to market SMEs visiting overseas markets, individually or in groups as part of their trade development process.

The Export Marketing Research Scheme—run for UKTI by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), provides free advice for SMEs on marketing research and a limited amount of grant is available for approved marketing research projects for SMEs and trade associations.

The Export Communications Review—also run for us by the BCC, provides SMEs with impartial and objective advice on language and cultural issues to help them improve their competitiveness in export markets.

Finance for growth

Ensuring the flow of credit to viable SMEs is essential for supporting growth and is a core priority for this Government. The Government are providing a comprehensive package of support for small businesses, including:

Continuation of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 viable SMEs in 2011 and, subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the next four years.

Trade finance:

A new Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, providing up to £1 million of lending to support viable SME exporters who are unable to access a commercial loan. A six-month pilot scheme commenced in April 2011.

A bond support scheme available from participating banks, freeing up additional working capital.

A widening of the eligibility of the existing short-term credit insurance policy, the Export Insurance Policy, by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

An export working capital scheme, facilitating exporting firms' access to pre and post-shipment working capital finance for specific export contracts.

A foreign exchange credit support product, to share risk with banks on their credit exposure arising from the foreign exchange hedging contracts provided to SME exporters, where there is some other form of ECGD support.

Continuation of the Government's Enterprise Capital Funds programme, increasing our commitment by £200 million over the next four years, providing for more than £300 million of venture capital investment to address the equity gap for early stage innovative SMEs with the highest growth potential.

Encouraging Business Angel investment by reviewing the regulatory framework affecting angels and through the establishment of a new £50 million Business Angel Co-Investment Fund.

A £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund operating across England from 2011 to 2014 to support projects and programmes that lever private sector investment creating economic growth and sustainable employment. It aims particularly to help those areas and communities currently dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

Women in Business

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what support his Department provides specifically for women in business; [75808]

(2) what support his Department provides to women's business centres. [75809]

Mr Prisk: In the coalition agreement the Government made clear that they believe business is the driver of economic growth and innovation. This includes the need to take action to boost enterprise, including women's entrepreneurship.

The Government are committed to broadening the range of activities intended to promote enterprise and to ensuring that the needs of potential and actual women entrepreneurs are fully integrated into these activities. For example:

Challenging aspirations and capability—particularly seeking to embed enterprise awareness at an early age, as there is evidence that differences in enterprise aspiration between the genders start to open up early in secondary education. We will therefore support every school to give pupils meaningful enterprise experience by helping them develop and run their own business and we will ensure that every school and college has access to positive local role models and enterprise champions—including female entrepreneurs.

A new approach to Business Improvement—as part of our work to transform the way that we enable people to receive the information and advice they need to start and grow their business (including the updating of www.businesslink.gov.uk, and establishing a new national helpline, a comprehensive start-up service and a new Business Coaching for Growth service), we have paid particular attention to ensuring the services are accessible to women and are designed and presented in the right way for a female audience.

Improving the business environment and access to finance—the Government are taking a number of steps which will benefit women-led businesses as well as other businesses, including: delivering long-term certainty and stability in the tax system; reducing regulatory burdens; encouraging a world-class skills base; ensuring the financial sector can supply affordable credit to viable businesses; and encouraging more diverse sources of finance for SMEs, including where appropriate, access to equity finance.

This Department does not provide any financial assistance for women's business centres.

The Government want to engage with small businesses and entrepreneurs to help make the UK the best place in the world to start and grow a business, and make the next decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in Britain's history. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has therefore created the Entrepreneurs' Forum, to provide him with an informal and personal source of advice on business and enterprise policies. There are 17 entrepreneurs on the forum, the majority of whom are women.

Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects his proposed copyright small claims jurisdiction to be in place. [73525]

Mr Davey: The Government are examining the business case for the introduction of a small claims track in the patents county court. We intend to report on progress this autumn. Subject to an appropriate business case being established, the Government would look to implement the change as soon as possible thereafter, hopefully in 2012.

Credit

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the March 2010 guidance from the Office of Fair Trading on irresponsible lending on lender practice in the *(a)* mainstream personal credit and *(b)* sub-prime personal credit market. [75548]

Mr Davey: The Irresponsible Lending Guidance is helping to raise standards in both the main stream and sub-prime sectors. For example, trade associations in both sectors have required their members to adopt practices and procedures that are compliant with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) guidance. However, OFT intelligence suggests that lenders in both sectors need to do more to fully meet the standards set out in the guidance—and where there is clear evidence that they don't meet these standards and consumers may be adversely affected, the OFT does, and will continue to, take action against the businesses concerned. In line with a commitment given at the time that it published the Irresponsible Lending Guidance, the OFT expects to commence a review of business compliance with the guidance shortly.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74956]

Mr Davey: The Department publishes expenses claimed by all board members, in relation to their work for the departmental board as well as more generally, on its website. Quarterly updates covering the period from May 2010 to March 2011 are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Subsequent updates will be published in due course.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants work in his Department; and how many worked in his Department in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2010. [76390]

Mr Davey: In June 2009 the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was merged with The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to create The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Therefore we only have access to data from this date.

Our latest return to the Office for National Statistics shows that as at the end of September 2011 we employed 2,958 staff. In March 2010 we employed 3,728 staff. Please note these figures include UKTI and are based on staff on payroll.

Power Generation: Nigeria

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote business links with the power supply sector in Nigeria. [75463]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides expert advice and practical support to UK companies, including those in the power sector, looking to export to Nigeria. In October 2010 UKTI Nigeria accompanied a delegation of UK power companies to the President of Nigeria's 'Presidential Retreat for Power Sector Investors' in Abuja at which it was discussed how all present could help improve the availability of power in the country.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was owed by developing countries to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in the latest period for which figures are available; what proportion that figure represents of all developing country debts owed to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [76061]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Sovereign debt owed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) by developing countries, as of 30 September 2011, was £2.4 billion. This represents 90% of all debts owed to the UK through ECGD, the Department for International Development and CDC Group plc.

'Developing countries' has been defined as low and middle-income countries, as based on the World Bank's latest (2011) classification of gross national income per capita.

Green Investment Bank: Location

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he expects to make the final decision on the location for the Green Investment Bank; [74551]

(2) whether his Department has made any changes to the criteria for determining the location of the Green Investment Bank since May 2011; [74556]

(3) whether further cities have applied to be the location of the Green Investment Bank. [74557]

Mr Prisk: 16 cities and towns have indicated that they would like to be considered as the location for the Green Investment Bank. I will set out further details of the criteria and process for determining the location of the Green Investment Bank before Christmas, with a view to a final decision in 2012.

Hawk Aircraft

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department offered support to BAE Systems to ensure that the Hawk trainer aircraft would be built in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [75578]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Government consider that the most effective support they can provide in relation to the Hawk is by promoting exports of the aircraft from the UK. The Government are actively engaged in promoting exports of the Hawk, and in particular the UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Defence and Security Organisation is supporting BAE Systems export campaigns in a number of overseas markets. Export customers for high value defence equipment frequently seek a level of local production and technology transfer, but export orders still deliver significant benefit and value for the many UK companies in the supply chain. The Government have not provided support directly towards production of the aircraft in the UK.

Higher Education Funding Council

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council has allocated for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11, *(d)* 2011-12, *(e)* 2012-13, *(f)* 2013-14 and *(g)* 2014-15 for capital investment at (i) Oxford University, (ii) Cambridge University, (iii) Imperial College, London, (iv) University College, London and (v) the University of Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [74009]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is in a table produced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. I will place a copy of it in the Libraries of the House. The only figures allocated are up to 2011/12. All figures beyond that date are indicative as no allocations have yet been made.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council allocated for *(a)* widening participation in higher education, *(b)* the costs of being based in London, *(c)* the teaching of foreign languages and *(d)* capital investment; how much it plans to allocate for each purpose in each of the next three years in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [74010]

Mr Willetts: The only figures allocated are up to 2011/12. The Government have yet to make allocations for future years.

(i) Widening Participation

The final recurrent grant figures for Widening Participation and improving retention are shown in table 1.

Table 1

	Widening access	*Improving retention*	£ *Total*
2010-11	141,895,449	226,699,474	368,594,923
2011-12	141,630,239	226,514,863	368,145,102

(ii) London weighting

It is not possible to identify precisely how much grant is attributable to London weighting, because it is just one weighting factor in more complex formulae covering three other elements of recurrent grant: mainstream teaching grant; Widening Participation, and Teaching Enhancement and Student Success, and Quality Research funding. Estimates are provided in table 2.

Table 2: Estimated London weighting within recurrent grant

		£ million
	2010-11	*2011-12*
Mainstream teaching grant	72.7	68.4
WP and improving retention	3.7	3.9
Research	44.5	44.4
Total	120.9	116.7

(iii) Foreign languages

The data requested on the spend on Modern foreign languages are not currently available. Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides institutions with a block grant to cover teaching costs and institutions have considerable flexibility to deploy this in line with their institutions needs. Precisely how they have done this for the years in question will be known following the publication of the final individualised student data from HESA for 2010-11 around December 2011.

(iv) Capital investment

The information provided by HEFCE on capital will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Higher Education: Admissions

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils attending *(a)* state funded schools, *(b)* grammar schools, *(c)* non-selective state funded schools and *(d)* independent schools who achieved AAB or above at A-level received an offer to attend (i) a higher education institution, (ii) a Russell Group university and (iii) Oxford or Cambridge University in the latest period for which figures are available. [72155]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Table: Number and proportion of UCAS applicants with A levels of AAB or better that received offers by centre type and institution

	(a) State excluding Grammar			*(b) Grammar*			*(d) Independent School*		
Institution type	*Applicants*	*Received offers*	*%*	*Applicants*	*Received offers*	*%*	*Applicants*	*Received offers*	*%*
(i) HEIs	21,292	20,751	97.5	12,519	12,192	97.4	16,759	16,111	96.1
(ii) Russell Group	19,510	17,259	88.5	11,934	10,813	90.6	16,336	14,613	89.5
(iii) Oxford or Cambridge university	5,293	1,394	26.3	3,514	1,119	31.8	6,496	2,115	32.6

The question asks for those with "AAB or above at A level" to be identified (therefore the wider specification of grades and qualifications proposed in the Higher Education Funding Council for England 'Consultation on funding for teaching and student number allocation in 2012-13' Annex C: AAB equivalences has not been used). Only the three highest grades have been considered in this analysis. The dominator for the calculation of the percentage is the number of applicants that made at least one choice to the type of institution.

The data covers UK domiciled applicants in the UCAS main scheme, Higher Education Institutions with UCAS membership and A levels reported through the 2010 Awarding Body Linkage (ABL arrangements only cover qualifications taken in the last 18 months). The school type reflects the centre through which the application was submitted and uses UCAS' standard centre groupings. UCAS is not able to report on non-selective state funded schools as these are not identified in their data.

The AAB and better group will contain applicants with a range of attainment from AAB to A*A*A*A* for example. The mix of applicant attainment within the AAB or better group may vary across centre type and this is likely to account for some of the differences in the offer rate seen, for example for those that achieved exactly AAB, the variation in offer rate from Oxford or Cambridge universities is reduced to within 0.6% across centre types.

For a majority of these applicants, offers are made prior to A level attainment being known. Predicted grades have not been considered in this analysis. An institution's decision to make an offer is likely to depend on subjects in addition to the potential grade profile. This data reports those who have achieved particular A level grade profiles without any filtering of the range of subjects. The mix of subjects offered may be associated with school type.

Higher Education: Charities

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on for-profit higher education providers; and if he will publish all such research. [73395]

Mr Willetts: There exists extensive research on the benefits of greater competition and choice. It is on such foundations that my Department's higher education White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System" is based. During the White Paper consultation phase, which ran from June to September of this year, we welcomed evidence from stakeholders to help quantify the possible impact of the policy proposals made. We are currently considering the responses received and will be issuing a formal response in due course. This will also include our response to the accompanying technical consultation "A New, Fit-for-Purpose Regulatory Framework for the Higher Education Sector" which is open until 27 October. Both documents are available at:

www.bis.gov.uk/hereform

Higher Education: Private Sector

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to providing private equity companies with degree-awarding powers. [73397]

Mr Willetts: Any organisation providing higher education is entitled to apply for degree awarding powers. The granting of these powers is subject to meeting specific criteria designed to establish that the applicant is a well-founded, cohesive and self-critical academic community that can demonstrate firm guardianship of its standards. As part of our proposed reforms to higher education we are currently consulting on a range of measures to encourage a greater diversity of higher education provision which is responsive to the needs of students.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* the Minister for Universities and Science and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with private equity firms to discuss higher education. [73398]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and I meet regularly with organisations that have an interest in higher education.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

BIS officials will also have had meetings with a range of organisations with an interest in higher education. A comprehensive record of these is not maintained.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria were used to determine which organisations to invite to the December 2010 and January 2011 meetings between the Minister for Universities and Science and private higher education providers. [73399]

Mr Willetts: I held two meetings with a range of private higher education providers in December 2010 and January 2011 to discuss how more private investment in, and provision of, higher education could be encouraged. Invitations were extended to those organisations that we felt had knowledge and expertise to share on this agenda.

Insolvency

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to increase the proportion of businesses which are at risk of going into administration which remain trading as a going concern. [74639]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to strengthening the framework for company rescue wherever this is possible.

In this regard, the Government are aware of the problems that can be caused for those seeking to rescue a struggling company by so-called 'termination clauses', and are currently considering this issue and the implications for all companies of any change to the existing law.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disqualification orders and undertakings were obtained in compulsory liquidations for each of the last five financial years; and in each such year how many were obtained for *(a)* less than five years, *(b)* five to nine years and *(c)* over nine years. [76170]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Insolvency Service does not record the data broken down according to the requested periods but has recorded total figures for the last four years which are provided in the following table:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
OR (Comp) disqualifications	—	507	528	540	579
Total disqualifications	1,200	1,145	1,252	1,388	1,437

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disqualification orders and undertakings were obtained in each of the last five financial years; and in each such year how many were obtained for *(a)* less than five years, *(b)* five to nine years and *(c)* over nine years. [76171]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Insolvency Service does not record the data requested broken down according to the periods specified. However, the data are recorded broken down according to similar periods and are provided in the following table:

Disqualifications by period

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
One to five years	710	603	614	668	738
Six to 10 years	400	402	478	540	549
11 to 15 years	90	140	160	180	150
Total	1,200	1,145	1,252	1,388	1,437

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of each document issued to Insolvency Service staff in relation to the proposed Insolvency Service delivery strategy. [76179]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The full staff consultation document on the delivery strategy can be found on the Insolvency Service website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency/About-us/Strategy-and-Planning

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect of staffing of the Insolvency Service delivery strategy on the staffing complement of the Insolvency Service in each region of England and Wales. [76180]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* A key purpose of the delivery strategy is to enable the Insolvency Service to react more flexibly to fluctuations in demand for its services in the future. It does not seek to change the level of staff employed, therefore no such assessment has been made.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Insolvency Service Delivery Strategy on the Insolvency Service's ability to investigate misconduct in bankruptcies and compulsory liquidations; and if he will make a statement. [76181]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Delivery Strategy does not propose any changes that will impact on the ability of the Insolvency Service to investigate misconduct in bankruptcies and compulsory liquidations.

Kaplan UK: Higher Education

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received from *(a)* Kaplan Inc., *(b)* Kaplan Europe and *(c)* Kaplan UK on the expansion of alternative providers in higher education; [73390]

(2) what meetings the Minister for Universities and Science has had with representatives of *(a)* Kaplan Inc., *(b)* Kaplan Europe and *(c)* Kaplan UK since his appointment. [73391]

Mr Willetts: I met with representatives of Kaplan UK on 8 September 2011. I met with representatives of Kaplan UK and Kaplan Inc. on 20 September 2011. I attended an event where a representative of Kaplan Europe was present on 3 May 2011. I attended an event where a representative of Kaplan UK was present on 17 May 2011. I have also received a number of written representations from Kaplan UK and Kaplan Europe regarding the role of alternative providers in UK higher education.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements govern the payment of expenses to members of expert and adviser groups to enable them to attend meetings at his Department. [75803]

Mr Davey: The arrangements for the payment of expenses to members of expert and adviser groups attending meetings at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) are governed by the principles laid out in the Civil Service Code, the Ministerial Code and the BIS departmental travel policy.

Only travel and expenses costs that are necessary and additional to normal expenditure can be reimbursed. Expenditure should be both reasonable and within the guideline amounts set out within the BIS travel policy. All claims for reimbursement must be approved by an appropriate and authorised budget holder within BIS before any payment can be made.

All travel should be both proportionate and appropriate to the need and should demonstrate best value for money to the Department. Travellers should choose the most appropriate method of travel and make the best overall use of official time, fares and subsistence.

Within BIS, Ministers, the permanent secretary and top management team are expected to follow the guidance given in the Ministerial Code, for example by using public transport at standard class and this is extended to officials, those appointed to office, and those whose fares will be reimbursed from the public purse.

National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what evaluation he has conducted of the work of the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. [74271]

Mr Willetts: The National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) is funded by BIS via the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

BIS asked the Medical Research Council (MRC) to lead a five-year (quinquennial) review of the NC3Rs which was undertaken in 2009. The aims of the review were to advise BIS, MRC and BBSRC on the continued importance of the NC3Rs; to examine the importance and quality of the work being carried out by the centre, including the research it funds; to examine the relevance and quality of the outputs and their translation; to advise on plans for the future including the level of resources necessary and the governance arrangements.

Public Houses: Rents

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider introducing a requirement for tenants to be provided with a breakdown of how their rent has been calculated in his code of practice for pub companies. [73735]

Mr Davey: The Government do not have a code of practice for pub companies. The Government are currently considering the recommendations made in the BIS committee's most recent "Pub Companies" report and will be responding in due course.

Royal Mail: Billing

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received on proposals by Royal Mail to increase the period for paying invoices to suppliers from 45 to 60 days; [76372]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on changes to their invoice payment system for suppliers. [76373]

Mr Davey: The Department has not received any representations or had any discussions with Royal Mail regarding their invoice payment practices.

Student Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from Muslim groups on the interest charged on student loans. [76048]

Mr Willetts: The Government have received representations from student representative bodies regarding this issue, including the National Union of Students and Federation of Student Islamic Societies.

Trade Union Officials

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the contributions trade union representatives make to *(a)* the economy and *(b)* productivity in (i) public and (ii) private sector workplaces; and if he will make a statement. [76479]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), fully recognises the contribution that trade union representatives can make in the workplace but it would be impossible to make any sensible estimate given the number of variables involved. The number and role of trade union representatives in a workplace will be determined between the union and employer.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of the national employed workforce that work as *(a)* full-time or *(b)* part-time trade union representatives; and if he will bring forward proposals to increase that proportion. [76480]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) has made no such estimate and has no plans to bring forward proposals to increase union representation.

The number of trade union representatives in a workplace and whether they are full or part-time will be determined between the union and employer. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 provides that reasonable time off be allowed for union duties and activities—and the ACAS code of practice provides practical guidance. This allows tailoring to the specific needs of the workplace.

UK Trade & Investment: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by UK Trade & Investment using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73496]

Mr Prisk: For the financial year 2011-12 and onwards, it is Government policy for all Departments to publish their GPC transactions over £500 on the Data.gov website. UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) data for the first quarter covering April to June 2011 can be found at:

www.data.gov.uk

UKTI does not hold the information at the detailed level requested for the period 2007-08 to 2009-10. To obtain this would involve commissioning a bespoke report, which could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Utilities: Billing

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take in respect of energy, utility and communication companies who do not state on their bills *(a)* that customers can pay by posted cheque, *(b)* to whom the cheque should be made and *(c)* the address to which the cheque should be sent. [73653]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* There are no plans to require companies to state on their bills that customers can pay by cheque. The information printed on customer's bills about methods of payment is a commercial matter for the companies concerned. Energy suppliers, along with utilities and communications companies offer a range of payment options. Some suppliers have licence conditions that set out ways under which they accept payment including in some cases cash and prepayment methods.

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension

25. **John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made on the introduction of a single-tier state pension. [76008]

Steve Webb: In July this year we published the response to our April Green Paper. Three quarters of organisations who responded supported the single tier pension.

We are continuing to work closely with Treasury on state pension reform and will update the house as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Work Programme

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much CDG will be paid for keeping one individual in employment for 26 out of the 104 weeks while they are participating in the Work programme; [74141]

(2) how much Seetec will be paid for keeping one individual in employment for 26 out of the 104 weeks they are participating in the Work programme; [74142]

(3) how much A4e will be paid for keeping one individual in employment for 26 out of the 104 weeks they are participating in the Work programme. [74143]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment.

Three main types of payment are available to providers:

a small attachment fee is paid early in the contracts for each person referred to the Work programme. This will reduce in the second and third years of the contracts and will no longer be payable at all in years four and five;

job outcome fees are paid once per participant after participants have been in employment for 13 or 26 weeks, depending on their participant group;

sustainment fees represent the bulk of available payments to providers. They are payable for each four-week period in employment after a job outcome is claimed, up to the maximums specified in the Work programme Invitation to Tender[1]. They are designed to encourage providers both to find jobs that are appropriate for their claimants in the long-term and to continue to support them in work.

The maximum possible level and timing of each of these payments for the different participant groups on the Work programme are set out in the Work programme Invitation to Tender[1] (see page 10).

As part of the procurement process, providers were asked to offer discounts on the maximum possible level of the job outcome payments in their bids (see paragraph 3.08 of the Invitation to Tender[1] for details).

[1] Work programme Invitation to Tender:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/work-prog-itt.pdf

Work Programme: North Lanarkshire

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have been successfully placed in jobs by Work programme contractors in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in each of the last three months; [75827]

(2) how many people claiming employment and support allowance have been referred into the Work programme in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [75828]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme was launched in June 2011, to deliver sustained employment that can change people's lives; providers have longer than ever before to make a difference.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

Statistics on referrals and attachments to the Work programme will be published from spring 2012 and job outcome data will be published from autumn 2012. The Department's publication strategy for Work programme statistics was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp

Access to Work Programme: Sign Language

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forms of sign language interpretation are available for sign language users through the Access to Work programme. [76374]

Maria Miller: Access to Work has provided assistance for a number of physical interpretation solutions including; British Sign Language, Sign Assisted Speech, Note takers, Palantypists, Lip Readers, Palm Speakers, Deaf Relay Interpreters and Sign Supported English. There are also a variety of technical interpretation options including; Remote Interpreting, Minicom, Texbox, Video Phones, Sign Video, Typetalk, Electronic Note taking and Remote Captioning.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many interpreters who use a sign language other than British Sign Language are employed as part of the Access to Work scheme. [76375]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sign language users requested interpreting services in a sign language other than British Sign Language through the Access to Work scheme in the last year. [76376]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Child Care

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent assessment is of the potential effects of the universal credit on child care costs. [75553]

Chris Grayling: No estimate has been made of the impact of universal credit on the cost of child care.

We are investing more than the current spend on child are. Extending support to parents working fewer than 16 hours will allow around 80,000 families who are currently not eligible to receive help with child care costs, increasing their financial incentives to take work.

Families will be able to recover 70% of monthly child care costs up to £760 for one child or £1,300 for two or more children. This is equivalent to the current arrangements in tax credits of £175 for one child and £300 for two or more children per week.

Child Maintenance

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mothers in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England receive financial assistance from the Child Support Agency. [75434]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many mothers in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England receive financial assistance from the Child Support Agency. [75434]

The Commission does not provide financial assistance directly. However the Child Support Agency (CSA) operates the two existing statutory child maintenance schemes. If a parent opens a case the CSA will work out how much child maintenance should be paid and can also collect and pass on child maintenance payments.

In the quarter to June 2011 there were 1,600 cases with a female parent with care benefiting from maintenance in Ashfield Constituency, 9,400 in Nottinghamshire and 544,300 in England.

Cases benefiting from maintenance are referred to as cases with a positive maintenance outcome. In addition the table below provides the number of cases, with a female parent with care in the specified areas, where maintenance was due and the number and percentage of these cases with a positive maintenance outcome in the three months to June 2011.

Cases benefiting from maintenance, June 2011

	Maintenance due	*Positive outcome*	*Percentage with positive outcome (%)*
Ashfield constituency	2,000	1,600	78.5
Nottinghamshire	12,100	9,400	77.7

Cases benefiting from maintenance, June 2011

	Maintenance due	Positive outcome	Percentage with positive outcome (%)
England	701,300	544,300	77.6

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Areas are provided by matching the residential postcode of the parent with care to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory.
3. Cases are classed as having maintenance due if an ongoing liability to pay maintenance exists or arrears of maintenance have been requested. This group of cases consists of assessed not charging, compliant, nil compliant, maintenance direct and others with receipts.
4. Cases are counted as having a positive maintenance outcome if they have received a payment via the collection service in the quarter or have a maintenance direct agreement in place. Cases are classed as maintenance direct if this is their status at the end of the quarter.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75178]

Chris Grayling: The numbers and values of contracts awarded to third sector organisations since May 2010 are detailed in the following table:

	Contracts awarded	Total value (£)
May 2010	3	569,421
June 2010	1	25,000
July 2010	0	0
August 2010	2	229,185
September 2010	4	2,031,629
October 2010[1]	25	265,677,775
November 2010	1	69,090
December 2010	0	0
January 2011	3	1,116,590
February 2011	0	0
March 2011	0	0
April 2011	6	226,325
May 2011	0	0
June 2011	2	96,920,210
July 2011	0	0
August 2011	0	0
September 2011	0	0
Total	47	366,865,225

[1] Including 20 Workchoice contracts.

Notes:

1. DWP does not have complete coverage of the third sector status of every supplier who has been awarded a contract in this period.
2. We have 15 other contracts in the period where the supplier's third sector status is unknown.
3. DWP awarded 1,129 contracts in total in this period (of which, CIT low level contracts total 598). Third sector suppliers represent 4.1% of the overall total.
4. The data includes DWP and its NDPB's.
5. The data is extracted from the BMO Contracts database using the contract start date as the filter.
6. Some contracts have a nil value because there is no firm contractual commitment to spend.
7. The period covered by this response is 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011.

The accompanying appendix will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on first-class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75531]

Chris Grayling: The expenditure for first class travel[1] by DWP since May 2010 is as follows:

[1] There was no first-class air or boat travel undertaken in the period in question and therefore all of the above figures relate to rail travel.

	£	Percentage reduction (%)
May 2010 to June 2010	934,094	—
July 2010 to March 2011[1]	420,652	-55
April 2011 to September 2011[2]	22,034	-95
Total	1,376,781	—

[1] An initial review of DWP's travel policy undertaken during this period allowed 1st class rail travel only for journeys over two hours and even then only in exceptional circumstances when a business case had been signed off by the budget holder.

[2] A further review of DWP's travel policy, undertaken during this period to ensure taxpayer's money was being used in the most efficient manner, introduced an outright ban on first class travel from 4th April 2011, save for very exceptional circumstances e.g. travel by a disabled employee who cannot be accommodated in standard class.

It is important to note that first-class travel reduced from 24% of the total number of rail journeys in May 2010 to 0.3% in September 2011.

DWP's business travel policy actively discourages travel, where possible, and encourages the use of video conferencing or call conferencing for meetings instead. Where travel is deemed necessary, DWP supports the use of the most cost-effective modes of transport only.

The figures provided should be read in the context of a geographically dispersed Department of over 100,000 staff.

Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to Departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

The code can be accessed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/civil-service-management-code

Paragraph 8.2 of the code deals with travel and under this section Departments and agencies must ensure that staff use the most efficient and economic means of travel in the circumstances, taking into account any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities.

Disability Living Allowance: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged 16 to 24 claimed disability living allowance in Coventry in (a) 1992, (b) 2002 and (c) the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [76380]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested but such information as is available is contained in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment for 16 to 24-year-olds in Coventry local authority at February 1993, 2002 and 2011, by gender

As at February:	Men aged 16 to 24	Women aged 16 to 24
1993	[1]200	[1]100
2002	[1]300	[1]300

Disability living allowance cases in payment for 16 to 24-year-olds in Coventry local authority at February 1993, 2002 and 2011, by gender

As at February:	*Men aged 16 to 24*	*Women aged 16 to 24*
2011	880	440

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

Notes:

1. Figures from February 1993 and February 2002 are taken from 5% sample data. They have been up-rated to be consistent with WPLS data and are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for February 2011 are taken from WPLS 100% data and are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Disability living allowance was introduced in April 1992, but published tables by local authority are not available prior to February 1993.

Sources:

1. DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)
2. DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%) (February 1993 and 2002)

Housing Benefit

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of implementing reforms to housing benefit by April 2013. [76205]

Steve Webb: Clause 68 of the Welfare Reform Bill will enable the introduction of size criteria for claimants receiving housing benefit in the social rented sector. From April 2013 housing benefit for working-age people who are living in a larger property than they need will be restricted. We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and others as we develop our implementation strategy. The consumer prices index measure for the local housing allowance will also be introduced from April 2013.

Housing Benefit: EU Nationals

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on assessing eligibility for housing benefit for A8 nationals. [75658]

Steve Webb: Since 1 May 2011, A8 nationals have had the same access to housing benefit as nationals of other, longer established European Union member states.

Detailed guidance on the benefit position of A8 nationals from 1 May 2011 was made available to local authorities in a housing benefit and council tax circular, A10/2011. This circular was published in May 2011. DWP also offers further support to local authorities on such matters by operating a dedicated e-mail inquiry point.

National Insurance Contributions

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in employers' national insurance contributions for employees aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* between 20 and 25, *(c)* between 25 and 55, *(d)* between 55 and 60, *(e)* between 60 and 65, *(f)* between 65 and 70 and *(g)* over 70 years old in the latest year for which figures are available. [74454]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the amount of employer national insurance contributions payable in respect of the 2009-10 tax year by age of employee is shown in the following table.

Age	*Employer NICs (£ millions)*
Under 20	200
20-25	2,400
25-55	43,300
55-60	4,700
60-65	2,600
65-70	500
Above 70	400
Total	54,200

Estimates are based on a 1% sample of NICs and PAYE Service data and exclude Class 1A and 1B national insurance contributions.

Occupational Pensions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* incentives and *(b)* options the Government are providing for short-term employees to contribute under the auto-enrolment system. [75958]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

The reforms ensure that all temporary workers, whether agency workers or employees directly employed by a company on a fixed short term contract are on an equal footing for the purposes of workplace pension saving.

Employers will be required to enrol all workers eligible[1] for automatic enrolment into a qualifying workplace pension scheme.

To ensure a balance of costs and benefits for individuals and employers the independent Making Automatic Enrolment Work review recommended the introduction of an optional three month waiting period before a worker has to be automatically enrolled as an easement for employers. Individuals who know that they want to save into a workplace pension saving will be able to opt in during the waiting period if they wish to do so.

Eligible workers who do not opt out will benefit from a minimum 3% employer contribution[2] and tax relief which will effectively double their own contributions offering a powerful incentive to save for retirement.

In addition workers who are not eligible for automatic enrolment but aged at least 16 and under 22 or have reached state pension age and under 75 and earning more than £5,035 will be able to opt in to workplace pension saving and qualify for an employer contribution.

Workers earning less than £5,035 will be able to opt in to a scheme designated by their employer. Their employer may choose to make a pension contribution but is not obliged to do so.

[1] Employers have to automatically enrol workers if they are (subject to pending legislation) someone: aged at least 22 and under pensionable age, who ordinarily works in Great Britain under the worker's contract and earns more than the earnings threshold (£7,475 in 2011-12).

[2] The 3% contribution is payable on defined contribution arrangements. Minimum employer contributions will be phased in starting at 1%, rising to 2% from October 2016 reaching 3% from October 2017.

Pensions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional number of people who will start saving towards a pension as a result of automatic enrolment into pensions at work. [76052]

Steve Webb: The Department estimates that nine to 10 million workers will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a workplace pension and that the reforms will result in five to eight million people newly saving, or saving more, in a workplace pension.

This estimate is taken from the impact assessment for the Pensions Bill 2011:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-bill-2011-ia-annexb.pdf

which was published in January 2011.

Pensions: Fire Services

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has conducted an impact assessment of the potential effect on firefighters of the provisions of the Pensions Bill [Lords]. [75724]

Steve Webb: The impact assessment published when the Pensions Bill was introduced into Parliament on 13 January 2011 did not cover specific occupations. It did consider the impact of the proposed increase in state pension age for people previously employed in manual occupations.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-bill-2011-ia-annexa.pdf

Pensions: North Lanarkshire

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency who will spend longer in employment as a result of the legislative proposals in the Pensions Bill. [75912]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. However, 4,200 women in the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency will have their state pension age affected by the proposals in the Pensions Bill 2011.

In Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in 2010-11, the employment rate of women aged 50-64 was 63.5% compared to a UK figure of 58.4%.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of households in receipt of out-of-work benefits for more than 12 months had *(a)* seven or more, *(b)* six, *(c)* five and *(d)* four children in the latest period for which figures are available. [75921]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to uphold the right to reside benefits test against any demand for abolition by the European Commission. [76194]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is considering all the details of the European Commission's Reasoned Opinion against the right to reside test and is committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure the UK retains control of its welfare policies.

The Government accept their responsibility in supporting EU citizens who work here and pay their taxes, but it is clearly completely unacceptable that we should be asked to open our welfare system to people who have never worked or contributed in the United Kingdom and have no intention of doing so.

Unemployment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in the level of unemployment has been in each local authority area since May 2010. [76218]

Chris Grayling: The DWP does not hold this information. The responsibility for this area sits with the Cabinet Office.

Unemployment: Vacancies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of any correlation between unemployment levels and job vacancies in each region. [75940]

Chris Grayling: The following table sets out the average number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus each month for the three months to September 2011[1], alongside the average jobseeker's allowance claimant count level over the same period.

[1] The Office for National Statistics' measure of total vacancies in the economy is not available at a regional level, and Jobcentre Plus vacancy figures are not available for Northern Ireland.

	Three months to September 2011	
	Average number of vacancies notified to JCP	*Average JSA claimant count level*
North East	15,874	88,200
North West	46,405	196,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	32,060	158,300
East Midlands	29,292	106,667
West Midlands	40,829	168,833
East	31,961	115,367
London	37,276	233,467
South East	44,950	141,367
South West	30,210	87,933
Wales	17,254	77,467
Scotland	25,812	145,033

Source:
nomisweb.co.uk

Jobcentre Plus vacancies will represent only a proportion of the total vacancies available in each region, as further vacancies will arise through other recruitment channels. Moreover, this proportion will vary between regions as Jobcentre Plus's market share is not geographically uniform.

Work Capability Assessment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people subject to a work capability assessment who had been diagnosed as *(a)* terminally ill, *(b)* having Parkinson's disease, *(c)* having multiple sclerosis and *(d)* requiring open heart surgery were assessed fit for work in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [75934]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department considers a person to be terminally ill if they suffer from a progressive disease with a prognosis of six months or less. Those with terminal illnesses are among a small minority of claimants who are fast-tracked into the support group without having to attend a work capability assessment (WCA).

People considered to be terminally ill by the Department are assessed to have limited capability for work-related activity and therefore cannot be assessed to be fit for work or placed in the work related activity group.

The Department recently published an ad hoc analysis of WCA outcomes at initial assessment for employment and support allowance (ESA) claims by detailed medical condition based on the International Classifications of Diseases (ICD10). This analysis was published on 21 September 2011 and can be accessed using the following link:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis_2011_q3

This shows the outcomes of the initial WCA for new ESA claims starting between October 2008 and November 2010 (the latest data available), after the effect of appeals. This shows that there were:

(b) 200 fit for work decisions out of 1,200 new claims where the primary condition was classed as Parkinson's disease.

(c) 700 fit for work decisions out of 4,900 new claims where the primary condition was classed as multiple sclerosis.

(d) The term 'requiring open heart surgery' is not defined by the International Classifications of Diseases (ICD10) published by the World Health Organisation; as a result we are unable to provide information in the format requested.

Entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) is based on functional capabilities, not on condition per se. The medical condition recorded on a claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming employment and support on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the work capability assessment, or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that, where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will publish the business case for closing the Central Office of Information; [75564]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse from the proposed closure of the Central Office of Information; and what assessment he has made of the implications of that estimate for the conclusions of the Tee Review; [75567]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost implications for individual Government Departments of the closure of the Central Office of Information (COI); and what impact assessments he has made of the decision to close the COI. [75568]

Mr Maude: The closure of the Central Office of Information is part of a programme to reform Government communications as a whole. This builds on the success of the moratorium on marketing and advertising, which saw external spend through COI fall from £532 million in 2009-10 to £168 million in 2010-11 and central Government Departments cut their communications budgets by half. These reductions in spending mean that COI is no longer viable as a trading fund.

The decision on the full package of reforms was made on the basis of the information contained in the former Permanent Secretary for Government Communication's 'Review of Government Direct Communication and the Role of COI' and the Government's response to this report. The original report was published on the Cabinet Office website in March and can be seen at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/review-government-direct-communication-and-coi

Following this I made a ministerial statement on 23 June 2011, *Official Report,* 22WS.

These changes will lead to cost savings in Government Departments: they will work together more closely, align activity and share resources.

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the transfer of work from the Central Office of Information to other Government Departments will be managed as a machinery of government change. [75566]

Mr Maude: The reform of Government communications and the closure of COI do not include any changes of ministerial responsibility, so therefore there is no machinery of government change.

Central Office of Information: Cardiff

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the closure of the Central Office of Information Office in Cardiff on staff employed at that office. [75537]

Mr Maude: The closure of the Central Office of Information means that all its staff are at risk of redundancy. The Cabinet Office is working to minimise the number of redundancies.

Civil Servants: Internet

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will provide further guidance for civil servants who take part in online discussions and debates under personal social media accounts outside of their normal work areas *(a)* in their own names and *(b)* anonymously. [76253]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The guidance on the use of social media by civil servants is currently being updated to include guidance to civil servants on their participation in social media in a personal capacity. Revised guidance will be published shortly.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants there were in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many he expects there to be in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [76277]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Official estimates of the number of full-time equivalent civil servants are produced by the Office of National Statistics at a point in time rather than over a financial year. As such the number of full-time equivalent civil servants as at 31 March 2009, 31 March 2010 and the 30 June 2011, the latest published position, is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of full-time equivalent civil servants, 31 March 2009 to 30 June 2011

	Number
31 March 2009	490,000
31 March 2010	492,000
30 June 2011	453,000

Source:
Public Sector Employment Statistics, ONS.

Cabinet Office is currently working with Departments to understand their future work force plans and projections. Information on finalised estimates of numbers of civil servants for 2012 to 2015 is not yet available but will be released in due course.

Community First Fund: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons Illingworth and Mixenden Ward in Halifax constituency did not qualify for funding under the Community First programme. [76422]

Mr Hurd: The aim of the Community First programme is to encourage more social action in neighbourhoods with significant deprivation and low social capital. It aims to encourage people to help others and themselves to improve the quality of life locally.

The eligible wards for Community First were selected using the indices of multiple deprivation, cross-cut with significant job seekers allowance claimant increases at top tier local authority level. In Calderdale, the eligible wards are Eland, Ovenden, Park, Sowerby Bridge, Town and Warley. They will all receive £33,910 of match funding over four years, with the exception of Ovenden which will receive £84,775.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75700]

Mr Hurd: I have had numerous meetings with a range of organisations since last year. Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis with those for June 2011 to be published in due course.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to take account of *(a)* socio-economic factors and *(b)* potential revenues for the Exchequer in the awarding of contracts. [76552]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 117W.

Employment: North-east England

Ian Mearns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the change was in the number of jobs in *(a)* Gateshead and *(b)* the North East in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four quarters. [76405]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the change was in the number of jobs in (a) Gateshead and (b) the North East in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four Quarters. (076405)

We are unable to provide quarterly information at this level of detail. However as an alternative, public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

The table provided shows the change in levels of the number of people employed in the public and private sector resident in Gateshead and the North East, between the 12 month periods ending in March 2010 and March 2011. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

In the APS the distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Change in the number of people employed in the public and private sector[1] resident in Gateshead and the North East between 12 month periods ending in March 2010 and March 2011

		Thousand
	Private[2]	*Public[3]*
Gateshead	-1	-1
North East	6	-4

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates:
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for official Public Sector Employment estimates.

[2] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey

Employment: North-west England

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the change was in the number of jobs in *(a)* Liverpool and *(b)* the North West in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four quarters. [76748]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the change was in the number of jobs in (a) Liverpool and (b) the North West in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in each of the last four Quarters. (76748)

We are unable to provide quarterly information at this level of detail. However as an alternative, public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

The table provided shows the change in levels of the number of people employed in the public and private sector resident in Liverpool Local Authority and the North West, between the 12 month periods ending in March 2010 and March 2011. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

In the APS the distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Change in the number of people employed in the public and private sector[1] resident in Liverpool local authority and the North West between 12-month periods ending in March 2010 and March 2011

		Thousand
	Private[2]	*Public[3]*
Liverpool	6	-5
North West	33	15

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates:
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for official public sector employment estimates.

[2] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (including police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey.

Private Rented Housing: Greater London

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people live in privately-rented accommodation in London; and what proportion of such people are *(a)* in full-time work, *(b)* unemployed, *(c)* aged 16 to 34 years, *(d)* ethnic minorities, *(e)* single people and *(f)* living in a household of more than three people. [76404]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority, I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people living in privately-rented accommodation in London, and what proportion of these people are (a) in full-time work, (b) unemployed, (c) aged 16 to 34 years, (d) ethnic minorities, (e) single people, and (f) living in households with more than 3 people. (76404).

The requested estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) person and household datasets. The latest available data are for January to December 2010. The estimates are provided in the accompanying table. These estimates are for all people aged 16 and over living in privately-rented accommodation in London, and therefore exclude children aged under 16. The estimate for 'ethnic minorities' include those who classified themselves as mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese, or other. The estimate for 'single people' refers to those living in one-person households.

	Number/percentage
Number of people[1] living in privately-rented accommodation in London:	
Privately-rented accommodation (thousand)	1,544
Of the people aged 16 and above living in privately-rented accommodation in London:	
In full-time employment (percentage)	54.6
Unemployed[2] (percentage)	6.2
Aged 16 to 34 (percentage)	65.1
In ethnic minorities[3] (percentage)	38.1
Single people[4] (percentage)	11.7
Living in households with more than three people[5] (percentage)	27.6

[1] People aged 16 and above, excluding children aged under 16.

[2] Note that unemployed proportion is not the same as unemployment rate, as the unemployment rate does not include inactive people or people under 16 in the denominator in its calculation.

[3] Ethnic minorities include those who classified themselves as mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese, or other.

[4] "Single people" are those living in one-person households.

[5] Households where everyone is aged 16 and above.

Source:
APS person and household datasets

SMEs

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to procure goods and services from small and medium-sized businesses. [76264]

Mr Maude: At an SME Strategic Supplier Summit held on 11 February, we announced a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete for Government contracts, detailed at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business

Local authorities are responsible for their own procurement decisions, but many choose to follow central Government policies and practices. Baroness Eaton, Chair of the Local Government Group, has signalled local government support for the measures the Government announced on 11 February, particularly the use of a shortened, simplified and standard set of core questions to be used in pre-qualification.

In addition, we are working with local government procurement organisations to make as many of their procurement opportunities as possible accessible through Contracts Finder, our one stop shop to enable suppliers to find procurement opportunities, tender documents and contracts online, free of charge.

Social Investment Market Vision and Strategy

Damian Hinds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations he has received on his Department's Social Investment Market Vision and Strategy. [75668]

Mr Hurd: As Minister for Civil Society I receive numerous representations in relation to social investment, including the Department's vision and strategy, which was published in February 2011. This includes correspondence, meetings and parliamentary business.

Work to develop the social investment market is being taken forward by a range of organisations inside and outside Government.

Social Lending

Damian Hinds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of Big Society Bank funds he estimates will be disbursed through community development finance institutions. [75669]

Mr Hurd: The Big Society Bank will be an independent organisation, and will be responsible for making its own investment decisions based on the expected impact and quality of the investment proposal. It will invest through intermediary organisations, like Community Development Finance Institutions that provide financial and business support to civil society.

Since the level of investment sought by Community Development Finance Institutions from the Big Society Bank is uncertain, and subsequent investment decisions will be for Big Society Bank, it is not possible or appropriate for Government to estimate the proportion of funds that will be disbursed through Community Development Finance Institutions.

Voluntary Organisations

Graham Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* community networks and *(b)* councils for voluntary service organisations receiving public funding (i) have closed in the last 12 months and (ii) have plans to close. [76079]

Mr Hurd: We do not centrally hold specific data on closures of community networks or Council for Voluntary Service. Latest figures show that approximately 38,000 general charities receive funding from Government and we continue to work closely with partners in the sector and across government to support such organisations through the transition.

Voluntary Work

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment he has made of the Access to Volunteering pilot projects undertaken in 2008-09 and 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [76289]

(2) if he will publish the independent assessment undertaken of the Access to Volunteering projects; and if he will make a statement. [76290]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Encouraging volunteering and social action is a key part of the Government's vision for a Big Society. In May 2011 the Cabinet Office published the Giving White Paper, which announced a number of measures including £40 million of funding over the next two years to support volunteering.

An independent evaluation of the Access to Volunteering pilot was published in March 2011. The report is available at the following link:

http://shared.freshminds.co.uk/Access_to_Volunteering_Evaluation.pdf

The evaluation was accompanied by three documents that share good practice from the pilot, available on the Volunteering England website at:

www.volunteering.org.uk/resources/goodpracticebank/Specialist+Themes/Disabled+People/index

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Judge Darlow

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Attorney-General what consideration he has given to the prosecution of the offence of misconduct in public office in the light of the rulings of Judge Darlow in the case of R v Laloi (2005). [75924]

The Attorney-General: His Honour Judge Darlow ruled, on 19 October 2005, that there was no case to answer in relation to the charges of misconduct in public office. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was, therefore, unable to proceed on these charges.

At the same hearing, the judge also indicated that the type of penalty he would impose on the remaining charges under the Data Protection Act 1998 would not justify a complex criminal trial. This obliged prosecutors to review the decision to proceed. The Code for Crown Prosecutors states that a public interest factor tending against prosecution is if the court is likely to impose a nominal penalty. In the light of this and applying the Code, the prosecution offered no evidence on these charges on 30 March 2006.

The CPS queried the judge's ruling in court and subsequently sought counsel's advice on referring his rulings in this case to the Court of Appeal, through an Attorney-General's reference. The CPS was advised that the case was not suitable for referral to the Court of Appeal because the law required no further clarification.

Section 58 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 now allows appeals of judge's rulings within a trial. This was not available at the time of these proceedings.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 25 October 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74943]

Mr Paterson: The Department publishes senior staff business expenses on a quarterly basis on its website within the publication section. This includes reimbursable expenses as well as those paid directly by the Department on behalf of the Director General and the non-executive director. The website address is:

www.nio.gov.uk

The following table summarises for all other members of the departmental management board reimbursable expenses since May 2010. For reasons of security it is departmental policy not to disclose the names of deputy directors.

Name of board member	*Amount (£)*
Deputy Director of Constitution and Political Group	5,891
Deputy Director of Constitution and Political Group	1,419
Deputy Director of Security and Legacy Group	831
Deputy Director of Security and Legacy Group	4,386
Deputy Director of Business Delivery Group	758
Director of Communications	4,161

For the sake of completeness we have included in the following table those who are no longer in the Department but were members of the departmental management board for part of this period:

Name of board member	*Amount (£)*
Deputy Director of Security and Legacy Group	6,007
Deputy Director of Security and Legacy Group	89

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76232]

Mr Paterson: As my contribution to the One Day Challenge my wife and I competed in the Mongol Derby from 6 to 16 August 2011. Our participation in this 1,000 km+ multi-horse race across the Mongolian steppe has to date raised over £68,000 for the Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund, the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust Charity and Mercy Corps Mongolia. The hon. Member is invited to make a donation, if he so wishes, at:

http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/patersonsmongolderby

The Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), has yet to complete his One Day Challenge but hopes to do so before the end of the year. At a conference on the big society in Belfast on 14 October 2011 at which he was the keynote speaker, he referred to the One Day Challenge and asked for those present to come forward with suggestions for a suitable project with which the Northern Ireland Office could become involved.

SCOTLAND

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76230]

David Mundell: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choosing. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the number of jobs created in each *(a)* Scottish local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in Scotland as a result of the partial exemption in national insurance contributions for new employees. [76089]

David Mundell: A breakdown of the number of jobs that have been supported by the NICs holiday, by region and constituency, will be published in the NICs Holiday Factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn. A breakdown by local authority is currently not available.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to encourage local authorities to provide more land for allotments. [76117]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are working with voluntary and community sector organisations, including the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, Allotment Regeneration Initiative and the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners to promote the importance of allotments and to encourage local authorities to make allotment land available. The Federation of City Farms have been investigating the potential for a community land advisory service to assist in the transfer of ownership and/or control of land from public or private landowners to community groups through purchase/sale or leasing. A business case is under development.

In addition, there are a number of other measures that we are taking forward, including measures in the Localism Bill, that will enable local people who are interested in food growing and cultivation to play a bigger role in planning, designing, managing and maintaining community green spaces for this purpose.

'The Community Right to Reclaim Land' will help communities to find space for food growing by making information about land owned by public bodies more easily available and help to ensure that under-used or unused land owned by public bodies and some other organisations is brought back into beneficial use.

Under proposals for the 'National Planning Policy Framework' local communities can protect the environmental and cultural landscapes they value. They will be able, through their local and neighbourhood plans, to identify, for special protection, green areas of particular significance to them. This local significance could be because of the green area's beauty, historic importance, recreational value (including land used for allotments where it is not already protected by allotment legislation), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife. By designating land as local green space, local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Full public consultation on the draft framework was launched on 25 July and closed on 17 October.

We are also looking at whether meanwhile leases for land could be used to provide community groups with a temporary space to grow. Locality, formerly the Development Trusts Associations, has developed model leases at:

http://www.meanwhile.org.uk/useful-info/view/legal

that can be used by landowners and communities to make use of land on a temporary basis (e.g. land set aside for a specific purpose but where the land is not currently being utilised to that effect).

Alongside the "How to" guide that my Department published at the end of August, providing advice for communities interested in creating or cultivating community orchards at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1973439

we will be developing a similar guide for individuals and communities interested in finding and developing space for food growing.

Guidance on managing existing plots better, for example, reducing plot sizes and taking action in cases where plots are not being cultivated, is available to local authorities via "A Place to Grow" available on the LGA website at:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=9027596

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of time was for an application to rent an allotment in the latest period for which figures are available. [76118]

Andrew Stunell: Records of allotment provision or the average time someone has to spend on a waiting list are not held at a national level. This is a matter for individual local authorities.

Research produced by the university of Derby in 2006, based on a partial survey of local authorities, reported that in the period 1996 to 2006, the number of allotment plots fell by 50,630. The report, commissioned but unpublished by the previous Government, was posted up on the DCLG website on 6 May at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1897047.pdf

Recent indications are however that the tide is turning. The number of allotment disposal cases has reduced significantly from 57 in 2005 to 15 last year. In addition, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure report that in certain areas of the country significant progress has been made in providing more land to meet demand for allotments, for instance, 52 new allotments sites have been created in the south west within the last year alone. Increasingly, councils are providing extra plots through bringing into use extra plots on existing sites, by extending existing sites or splitting plots in half as they become vacant to help meet demand. These practices are very much in keeping with the recommendations set out in the DCLG/Local Government Association guidance to local authorities in "A Place to Grow", which can be found at:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=9027596

Surveys undertaken by West Kirby Transition Town in conjunction with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners show waiting lists for allotments have grown considerably. The latest survey results published on 6 May 2011 estimated that around 87,000 people are on waiting lists for just over 152,000 statutory plots managed by principal local authorities (not including those run by parish or town councils or allotment associations). This equates to 57 people waiting for every 100 plots. In 1996 there was an average of four people waiting for every 100 plots.

New neighbourhood planning provisions being introduced in the Localism Bill will provide communities with a means to boost the number of sites with powers to protect existing allotments and identify new plots. In addition, requirements for councils to provide allotments will be safeguarded as part of a wider review into reducing statutory burdens on local authorities.

The above information was covered in a news release issued by the Department on 7 May, available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1897155

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotments there are in England; and how many acres were used for allotments in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2010. [76119]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of allotments in England and the amount of land used for allotments is not held by central Government.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners estimate that there are approximately 300,000 allotments in England.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the revised guidance issued to local authorities on the process to follow when it is proposed to bring housing management under direct council control and abolish an arm's length management organisation. [76785]

Andrew Stunell: The Department will issue guidance for councils considering the future of their arm's length management organisations and housing management services as part of the Housing Strategy which will be published in due course.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has any plans to require arm's length management organisations to become housing associations. [76786]

Andrew Stunell: The Department will set out its thinking on any stock transfer to housing associations in the Housing Strategy which will be published in due course. We will listen to views across the housing sector to ensure that social housing is well managed and resourced and remains relevant in a changing world.

Council Tax

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the average saving to a household in each council tax band of the council tax freeze in 2012-13. [73743]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* The average saving to a household in each council tax band should authorities choose to freeze their council tax in 2012-13 would be as follows:

Band	*£*
A	48
B	56
C	64
D	72
E	88
F	104
G	120
H	144

This assumes there would have been an average increase by each authority of 5%.

The average savings from the freeze are a simple reflection of the council tax bands, with higher banded homes paying more council tax.

I would note under the last Government, from 1997 to 2010, council tax bills more than doubled—across all council tax bands. This hit pensioners and others on fixed incomes the hardest. Correspondingly, the coalition Government's grant scheme to help local authorities to freeze council tax this year and next will provide significant help to those council taxpayers on low and fixed incomes.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to his recent announcement on the effects of freezing council tax, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's financial assessment on which he based his assumption of a five per cent. increase in council tax if no support were made available; [75318]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the financial assessment on which he based his calculation that support to local authorities to help freeze council tax would save an average Band D council taxpayer £72. [75319]

Robert Neill: The figure of a saving of up to £72 is compared to an assumed rise of 5% in average council tax bills. This has been calculated based on an average Band D council tax figure for 2011-12 of £1,439, as published in the Council Tax Levels statistical release which can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1870215.pdf

A rise of 5% reflects the typical council tax level capping threshold adopted by the last Administration in recent years (2005-06: 5.5%; 2006-07: 5.0%; 2008-09: 5.0%; 2009-10: 5.0%; 2010-11: 4.5%).

The average annual rise in council tax under the last Administration was 5.9%.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the likely council tax increase in each local authority if no support to freeze council tax was made available. [75320]

Robert Neill: Levels of council tax are a matter for individual local authorities to decide.

I would note that under the last administration council tax rose by an average of 5.9% a year, with rises in one year as high as 12.9%.

In addition to working with councils to freeze council tax for two years, this Government are giving local taxpayers new powers to veto excessive council tax rises.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost to the public purse was of meeting the cost of council tax benefit in each year from 2007-08 to 2011-12 to date; what estimate he has made of the cost of its successor benefit in each year from 2012-13 to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [75398]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides the total amount of council tax benefit paid out to beneficiaries up to 2010-11, and then forecast expenditure to 2012-13.

Council tax benefit

	Total expenditure (£ million)
2007-08 out-turn	4,027
2008-09 out-turn	4,234
2009-10 out-turn	4,698
2010-11 out-turn	4,925
2011-12 forecast	4,906
2012-13 forecast	4,943

Source:

Local authority subsidy returns, 2007-08 to 2010-11, Budget 2011 expenditure forecasts 2011-12 to 2012-13, available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/all_tables_budget_2011_2.xls

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2011.xls

There are no firm cost estimates of the successor benefits to council tax benefit. However, on the basis of existing policy, with an assumed 10% reduction in expenditure at the time of localisation in 2013-14, the OBR's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook forecasts spending to be as follows:

Council tax benefit successor (after localisation)

	Total expenditure (£ million)
2013-14 forecast	4,438
2014-15 forecast	4,444

Source:
Budget 2011 expenditure forecasts.

Figures 'include' both benefit spending reimbursed by DWP and the spending financed by local authorities, but 'excludes' reimbursement to local authorities in respect of their administration of council tax benefit, as this information is unavailable.

Departmental Speaking Engagements

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials in his Department have spoken in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76791]

Robert Neill: Details of keynote ministerial speeches are available on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom/articlesandspeeches/

A comprehensive list of all speaking engagements undertaken by Ministers and senior officials since May 2010 is not held centrally and to assemble the information would entail disproportionate cost.

Derelict Land

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage the development of brownfield sites. [76148]

Robert Neill: On 5 October 2011, my Department outlined plans to release formerly-used land and property with enough capacity to build up to 100,000 new homes by 2015. To get development moving, we will be looking to extend the use of build now, pay later models—meaning developers do not have to find the money upfront for the land but can pay as the development gets underway, or homes are sold. This will help tackle cash flow problems which can act as a barrier to house building.

In September 2011, we announced £100 million of funding to bring empty homes that blight neighbourhoods back into use. This complements the new homes bonus which also rewards the reuse of long-term empty homes.

In May 2011, we announced a £30 million contribution towards locally-led schemes to improve the former housing market renewal pathfinder areas. In many locations, the Whitehall programme created blighted areas and abandoned streets.

In February 2011, we outlined plans for a new community right to reclaim land which will help communities to improve their local area by making information about land owned by public bodies more easily available. It will also help to ensure that underused or unused land owned by public bodies and some other organisations is brought back into beneficial use.

In June 2010, we amended Whitehall planning guidance to take residential gardens out of the definition of brownfield land. This allows councils to focus development on genuine brownfield land and protect the character of residential neighbourhoods.

In July 2011 j we published a draft new National Planning Policy Framework. The draft asks local authorities to prioritise land of least environmental or amenity value for development. The term "of least environmental or amenity value" rather than "brownfield" was used because in some cases, previously developed land can be rich in wildlife and much valued by local communities. The consultation has closed and we are carefully considering all of the submissions that have been made and will then publish the revised text.

My department is also supporting the Olympic legacy, driving renewal and regeneration in East London, replacing over 740 acres of polluted, low-grade industrial land and premises with new sports and community facilities, parks, homes, shops and transport infrastructure.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to assist the economies of local authority areas not selected as enterprise zones. [74183]

Greg Clark: DCLG officials are working closely with those local enterprise partnerships that have asked for support in driving forward local growth following an unsuccessful bid for an enterprise zone.

There are many mechanisms that local enterprise partnerships can draw upon to promote economic development. For example, local authorities can already simplify the approach to planning through local development orders and put in place super fast broadband, working with Broadband Delivery UK. Subject to the passage of the Localism Bill, authorities will be able to grant local business rate discounts from April 2012. And the Government are currently consulting on the local retention of business rates, as well as proposals for tax increment finance, both of which have the potential to provide funding to develop infrastructure.

The coalition Government have a number of policies and schemes in place to help promote local economic growth and regeneration, including the Growing Places Fund, the Regional Growth Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the Work programme and the Olympics legacy. A more detailed list is outlined in 'The Plan for Growth' (March 2011).

Enterprise Zones: Lee-on-the-Solent

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether existing sector-appropriate tenants of the Daedalus Enterprise Zone site will receive the same benefits from the zone as new businesses that choose to set up there. [76204]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 24 October 2011:* All businesses in an Enterprise Zone will be eligible for a 100% business rate discount, worth up to £275,000 over a five-year period, provided they are operating from the Enterprise Zone during the course of this Parliament. These discounts will be provided up to levels permitted by state aid requirements.

Housing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average proportion of social housing is in each decile of wards ranked by the index of multiple deprivation; [75932]

(2) what the average proportion of households that owned their homes was in each decile of wards ranked by the index of multiple deprivation. [76036]

Andrew Stunell: The table shows housing stock by tenure for deciles of local authorities ranked by their average rating by the index of multiple deprivation.

The table is at local authority level and in terms of housing stock not households as it is based on the most recently available data. It is not possible at local authority level to divide 'privately owned' dwellings into 'owner occupied' and 'private rented'.

	Number of dwellings			*Percentage of total housing stock*		
Decile[1] of districts	*Social housing stock[2]*	*Private housing stock[3]*	*Total housing stock*	*Social housing stock[2]*	*Private housing stock*	*Total housing stock*
1	170,069	1,330,679	1,500,748	11	89	100
2	215,031	1,465,245	1,680,276	13	87	100
3	222,820	1,507,684	1,730,504	13	87	100
4	227,453	1,592,329	1,819,782	12	88	100
5	306,749	1,825,645	2,132,394	14	86	100
6	257,692	1,638,107	1,895,799	14	86	100
7	410,677	2,105,656	2,516,333	16	84	100
8	538,451	2,162,775	2,701,226	20	80	100
9	695,306	2,463,082	3,158,388	22	78	100
10	984,836	2,572,631	3,557,467	28	72	100

[1] One is the least deprived 10% of local authority districts, 10 is the most deprived 10%. Local authorities are given an average score based on the multiple deprivation measures weighted by population for 'census areas' within their boundaries.

[2] Figures for social housing stock include both self-contained dwellings and bedspaces from the housing association tenure.

[3] Includes 'own occupied' and 'private rented'.

Sources:

1. "DCLG live table 100":
http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

2. "Indices of Deprivation 2010, Local Authority District Summaries, deciles based on the 'Average of LSOA ranks'":
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1871689.xls

Housing: Planning

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to reach a decision on Planning Appeal APP/A1530/H/11/2140255, Middleborough, Colchester; and if he will make a statement on the time taken in considering and determining that appeal. [75800]

Robert Neill: I assume that my hon. Friend is referring to Advertisement Appeal APP/A1530/H/11/2149255 which relates to a Discontinuance Notice Advertisement Appeal in Colchester. The appeal was submitted on 14 March 2011, had a Site Visit on 18 October 2011, and a decision was issued shortly thereafter on 21 October.

Advertisement Appeals do not have any statutorily defined decision time scale. Wherever possible, the Planning Inspectorate follows the same time scale as it does for Planning Appeals. It aims to issue 80% of Written Representations decisions within 16 weeks of receipt and 80% of Hearing decisions within 22 weeks. In this case the time taken to reach the site visit stage was longer than anticipated as there was no appropriately qualified inspector with immediate availability to start the case.

As at the end of August this year, 67% of decisions on Written Representations advertisement appeal decisions have been issued within 16 weeks of the start of the process, and 98% of those following the Hearing procedure have been issued within 22 weeks. Cases take longer than target times for reasons that include the complexity of the issues involved, where important circumstances relevant to the appeal change during the time the appeal is with the Inspectorate and the need to ensure that the case is dealt with by an inspector at an appropriate level of qualification and cost.

Local Government: Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the use of *(a)* facilities, *(b)* resources and *(c)* staffing time for trade union duties and activities. [69094]

Robert Neill: Over the last year, the issue of taxpayer-funded trade union officials has attracted significant parliamentary and public scrutiny.

The TUC have estimated that there are 200,000 union representatives in workplaces across the United Kingdom. Information on the amounts spent on paid time off or the provision of facilities for trade union officials in the public sector is not widely recorded or transparent.

Notwithstanding, I note the Taxpayers' Alliance published a survey of public authorities' employment of trade union officials in September 2010;

http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/campaign/2010/09/new-tpa-research-taxpayers-fund-trade-unions-to-the-tune-of-85-million-a-year.html

and the *Sunday Telegraph* published its own survey in October 2011:

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8815280/Taxpayers-pick-up-68m-bill-for-thousands-of-union-reps.html

Estimates have suggested that so-called "facility time" is more prevalent in the civil service than the rest of the public sector and the private sector, with civil service departments spending, on average, 0.2% of annual pay bill on facility time, compared to 0.14% in the wider public sector and 0.04% in the private sector.

Statute does not specify how much time employees should be granted to work on trade union duties beyond 'that which is reasonable'. It is clear that the public sector gives more than the level considered reasonable by other employers.

Such facility time agreements are not legally enforceable, and can be amended or terminated on notice.

Employment decisions are a matter for local determination by councils. Yet at a time when all local authorities need to make sensible savings to protect front line services, councillors should review the merits of union officials funded by the taxpayer and the provision of the office facilities to trade unions. We would actively encourage local authorities to reduce the amount of facility time to the norm of private sector levels. A number of councils are already undertaking such reviews.

In due course, the Cabinet Office will be producing a policy paper on how facility time can be reformed and reduced in the civil service. Further to this, the Department for Communities and Local Government will provide assistance and guidance to local councils to help inform their own reviews.

The new Transparency Code for local government will also help ensure that cash payments to trade unions and the titles of staff posts in local government are open to greater public scrutiny.

Planning Permission

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the National Ecosystem Assessment of the value of local ecosystem services would be taken into account as a material consideration in a planning application under the guidance of the National Planning Policy Framework. [76419]

Greg Clark: Case law has determined that, to be material, a consideration must relate to the development and use of land, and to the particular development for which planning permission is being sought These are the tests which decision makers will apply in determining whether the National Ecosystem Assessment or any other issue is material to a particular application.

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what step his Department is taking to improve social mobility; and if he will make a statement. [76605]

Andrew Stunell: As the social mobility strategy sets out, fairness is a fundamental value of the coalition Government. The strategy aims to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

The Government's social mobility strategy aims to tackle unfairness at every stage of life with specific measures to improve social mobility from the foundation years to school and adulthood. The strategy takes a long-term view and recognizes that this is not just a task for Government. Our whole society has a part to play.

My Department has a particular contribution to the social mobility strategy in setting out how housing can play a crucial role in improving social mobility through improving affordability for those wishing to realize their aspirations of home ownership and making the rented sector more flexible through providing more tenure choice and increasing incentives and opportunities for social renters to move to look for work.

The forthcoming housing strategy will set out how our housing reforms can further support the goals set out above.

TREASURY

Business: Bonds

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential for growth in the market for bonds issued by small and medium-sized enterprises. [76746]

Mr Hoban: The Government believe that there is the potential for greater use of bond issuance by small and mid-sized companies in the UK. The CBI and other organisations have also suggested that bond markets could be accessed more by this group. The Government are continuing to work with stakeholders to assess the potential to encourage and develop the growth of this market.

Business: Debts

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of underwriting debt or equity issued by small and medium-sized enterprises. [76662]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury is currently considering a range of options for credit easing as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 3 October 2011. The Chancellor will provide more details regarding credit easing at the autumn statement on 29 November.

Child Tax Credit

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of main carers claiming child tax credit in respect of couples out of work were *(a)* men and *(b)* women at the latest period for which information is available. [76263]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Card Surcharges

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to the report by the Office of Fair Trading on card surcharges. [76053]

Mr Hoban: The Government are considering the Office of Fair Trading's recommendations and will respond in due course.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Equitable Life compensation payments had been made by 30 September 2011; what assessment he has made of performance against the original timetable for payments; and if he will make a statement. [76729]

Mr Hoban: The scheme began making payments as planned on 30 June and hundreds of payments have been paid to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

The Government set out at the spending review in October last year that £500 million was available to make payments to policyholders in 2011-12, £300 million in 2012-13 and £200 million in 2013-14. We are making good progress towards delivering these payments to policyholders.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department undertook an impact assessment on the likely effects on *(a)* employment and *(b)* the economy of a slow-down in orders for tranche 3A of Eurofighter; and when any such assessment was made; [76093]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have discussed a slow-down in orders for tranche 3A of Eurofighter with representatives of (i) BAE Systems and (ii) staff employed by BAE Systems; [76094]

(3) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials held discussions with (i) the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and (ii) officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the likely effect of changes in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter on levels of employment; and when any such discussions took place; [76095]

(4) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts from partner core nations on the likely effects of a slow-down in tranche 3A of Eurofighter on (i) employment and (ii) the economy. [76097]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 965W, and to the answer the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave him on 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 600-01W.

Financial Services: Regulation

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further proposals he plans to bring forward to protect consumers from mis-selling by independent financial advisers; and whether he intends to provide guidance to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme administrator on the timely resolution of claims. [76346]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority's (FSA) Retail Distribution Review (RDR) aims to address structural problems in the retail investment market which can lead to mis-selling. The RDR will come into effect at the end of 2012.

More generally, the Government's Financial Services Bill will provide the framework for more focused and proactive regulation of firms' conduct under the new Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The FSA sets down the rules under which the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) operates. The day-to-day operations of the FSCS are independent from Government control and influence.

Fiscal Policy

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures are being reviewed by the Office for Tax Simplification. [76430]

Mr Gauke: The OTS is currently carrying out reviews into small business taxation, pensioner taxation and employee share schemes. It will publish reports into each of these areas by Budget 2012.

Income Tax: Women

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of those taken out of tax as a result of the increase in the personal allowance were women in 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the figures for 2012-13. [76193]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Personal allowances for those aged under 65 have increased by £1,000 in 2011-12 to £7,475. As a result, the Government estimates that in 2011-12 830,000 taxpayers will be removed from income tax, of which 490,000 (59%) are female.

Personal allowances for those aged under 65 will increase by a further £630 in 2012-13 to £8,105. As a result, the Government estimates that in 2012-13 260,000 taxpayers will be removed from income tax, of which 146,000 (56%) are female.

These estimates are Budget 2011 estimates based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff in HM Revenue and Customs have been assigned to conduct the review into revenue generated by the 50p tax rate; [76468]

(2) whether the Office for Budget Responsibility will have a role in *(a)* conducting, *(b)* advising and *(c)* reviewing the outcomes of the review into revenue generated by the 50p tax rate; [76466]

(3) which sections in his Department will be responsible for conducting the review into revenue generated by the 50p tax rate; [76465]

(4) whether he has consulted with *(a)* the Office of Budget Responsibility and *(b)* others on the methodology for reviewing the revenue generated by the 50p tax rate; [76462]

(5) what progress he has made in measuring the revenues to the Exchequer generated by the 50p tax rate. [76461]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has asked HM Revenue and Customs to assess the revenue from the 50% rate of income tax. As I outlined in debate on the 2011 Finance Bill, HMRC will consider all available evidence around the impact of the 50% rate including data from the 2010-11 self assessment returns which will become available next year.

Independent Commission on Banking

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has set a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Independent Commission on Banking after the Government has published its response. [76673]

Mr Hoban: The Government are currently considering options for implementation. This will be discussed in the Government response to the Independent Banking Commission, due by the end of the year.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to accept the recommendation of the Independent Commission on Banking to establish a challenger bank; and when any such bank would be established. [76675]

Mr Hoban: The Government have welcomed the Independent Commission on Banking's recommendations. The Government will respond by the end of the year.

Individual Savings Accounts

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on plans to introduce social Individual Savings Accounts. [76353]

Mr Hoban: ISAs offer a clear and simple option for saving in a tax-advantaged way for over 23 million people in the UK. They have the benefit of being simple, transparent, competitive and flexible.

A number of providers choose to offer green ISAs, ethical ISAs and ISAs orientated towards supporting other social benefits. The Government's ISA regulations are designed to allow providers to develop these types of ISA products, where there is demand.

National Insurance Contributions: Small Businesses

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to extend national insurance contribution holiday to all small businesses. [76587]

Mr Gauke: The policy is designed to support new businesses in parts of the country that are most reliant on the public sector assisting them in their first year, reducing the costs of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs Holiday to all existing small businesses but believes the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs Holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

Office for Tax Simplification: Manpower

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed by the Office for Tax Simplification. [76586]

Mr Gauke: The OTS has 12 staff:

Four full-time civil servants

Eight part-time secondees

Personal Savings: Interest Rates

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the annual revenue yield from interest on money in bank and building society deposits. [76643]

Mr Hoban: Estimated income tax liabilities on savings income is shown in table 2.6 "Income tax liabilities, by income source and tax band, 2007-08 to 2011-12", available on the HMRC website at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-6.xls

Revenue and Customs: Recruitment

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which departments in HM Revenue and Customs staff have been recruited to the new affluent team. [76463]

Mr Gauke: 100 people were redeployed from teams working in HMRC's Individuals and Public Bodies Group. The other 100 have been recruited by competition across HMRC and come from many different parts of the department and have a wide range of relevant skills.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether new jobs created to tackle tax avoidance and evasion were advertised externally; and what the cost was of such advertising. [76464]

Mr Gauke: New jobs created by HM Revenue and Customs to tackle tax avoidance and evasion have not been advertised outside of the civil service.

Taxation: Business

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs' online service for filing company tax returns was last updated. [76460]

Mr Gauke: The HM Revenue and Customs online service for filing company tax returns was updated on 11 October 2011. The update included the reductions in the corporation tax rates announced in Budget 2011.

Taxation: Financial Services

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has estimated the revenue which would be raised for the Exchequer by a tax on international financial transactions levied at *(a)* 0.005 per cent., *(b)* 0.05 per cent., *(c)* 0.5 per cent. and *(d)* five per cent. [76475]

Mr Hoban: The EU Commission published proposals for a EU financial transactions tax on 28 September. As part of the associated impact assessment, it set out revenue estimates for various types of financial transaction tax. However, in respect of budgetary impacts, the EU Commission also notes the following.

> "Estimating revenue for taxes that would be newly introduced and that—at least to a certain extent—have the goal to change market behaviour and structure is not feasible without a high degree of uncertainty. This comprises also the effects on other taxes like corporation tax, capital gains taxes which revenue could decrease when introducing additional taxes."

The full impact assessment and associated documents are available from the EU Commission at:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/other_taxes/financial_sector/index_en.htm

The Government believes that any financial transaction tax would have to apply globally to avoid transactions relocating to those countries not applying the tax.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of controlled foreign companies; and if so when. [76567]

Mr Gauke: New controlled foreign companies (CFC) rules will be introduced in Finance Bill 2012.

VAT: Inflation

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution of the increased rate of value added tax to inflation. [76413]

Mr Gauke: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR will publish updated forecasts on 29 November 2011. The Office for National Statistics estimates that the impact of the VAT rise on consumer prices index inflation in January 2011 was 0.76 percentage points.

TRANSPORT

Airlines: Passengers

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage the Civil Aviation Authority to take action against airlines which mistreat their customers and passengers. [76115]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is the UK's National Enforcement Body for European aviation consumer law and has enforcement powers backed by criminal penalties. The use of these powers is a matter for the CAA.

Crossrail Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to hold a separate financing competition for Crossrail rolling stock. [75282]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement of the Crossrail rolling stock and depot facilities is being undertaken by Crossrail Ltd on behalf of the project's two sponsors, Transport for London and the Department for Transport.

The OJEU advertisement for the procurement was issued in December 2010. The invitation to negotiate documentation, which will set out in more detail the scope of services to be provided by bidders, is currently being developed by Crossrail Ltd. Arrangements in relation to financing will be confirmed in more detail once the invitation to negotiate is published.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures her Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73111]

Norman Baker: All procurement of external consultants undertaken by the Department complies with the Government's procurement policies and procedures.

Regardless of definition or value, all requirements for external consultancy are subject to review and approval by the Department's Departmental Approvals Committee (DAC) before any procurement action can commence.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74899]

Norman Baker: There have been no relocations of DfT central staff during the last 12 months. 18 staff are planned to be relocated from Woking to Farnborough during the next 12 months.

Information on the number of DfT executive agency staff relocated, and agreed for relocation, in the last 12 months is not centrally recorded and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The DfT (including executive agencies) will consider opportunities for relocation as they arise, for example, through departmental reorganisation and reviews of estates requirements.

Great Western Railway Line

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department will invite *(a)* formal submissions from regional organisations as part of a consultation and *(b)* comments on the draft specification for the Great Western rail franchise; and whether her Department has set a date by which such submissions must be received. [76723]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the Great Western refranchising process, the Government intend to issue a consultation document. This will include the opportunity for individuals and organisations to provide feedback on the draft franchise specification. Currently we expect the consultation exercise to commence by January 2012 and conclude by April 2012.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date her Department plans to issue the specification and invitation to tender for the next Great Western rail franchise. [76724]

Mrs Villiers: We currently expect to issue the specification and invitation to tender for the next Great Western franchise in May 2012.

Public Sector Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps she is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if she will make a statement; [74785]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [74815]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is committed to putting in place a framework for assessing applications for employee co-operatives.

This will be developed in line with guidance from Cabinet Office and will cover all aspects of the establishment of employee-led mutuals.

Railways: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress the Rail Accident Investigation Branch has made in its investigation into the incident on 18 July 2011 involving a tamper train on the Northampton Loop being hit by loose metal panels from containers from a freight train. [76487]

Mrs Villiers: The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) is investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident on 18 July 2011 involving a tamper train on the Northampton Loop being hit by loose metal panels from containers from a freight train. The details of the incident were as described as follows:

> At 17:55 hrs, the driver of a tamper travelling on the Down Northampton line, reported that his cab had been struck by an object from freight train 4L68, the 12:15 hrs container service from Birch Coppice (near Tamworth) to Felixstowe, as it passed on the adjacent line. The tamper driver had observed a metal panel flapping from the side of the approaching container train. He released the safety device in his cab as he moved to protect himself and the tamper came to a stand. The side window of the cab had been smashed but he escaped injury. He then called the signaller to request that all trains be stopped on the adjacent line. When he re-continued his journey, the tamper driver reported finding another similar panel beside the track closer to Rugby.
>
> The two metal panels were later recovered from the trackside and were found to be from two containers that were on 4L68. The containers were fitted with power generation equipment. The panels, approximately 2.5m high x 1m wide, had been screwed to the container sides; each had covered a louvred-aperture. The RAIB has examined the containers and found evidence of loose and missing screws on other panels that had been fitted.

The RAIB has examined the panels that became detached and the containers to which they were originally attached. Through interviews, industry records, CCTV images and analysis the RAIB has determined the sequence of events leading up to the incident. It has identified that the panels became detached due to failure of their fastening arrangements to the container.

The RAIB has identified the controls that are in place to manage and approve design and modifications to freight containers. The RAIB is currently considering their effectiveness and the industry's compliance with them. Similarly, it is investigating the railway specific arrangements that are in place to prevent unsafe containers entering railway service.

Upon conclusion of the investigation, the RAIB will, if appropriate, make recommendations to limit the likelihood and/or reduce the consequence of future similar incidents on the railway.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department is conducting work on the crashworthiness of tables on Class 156 units following injuries to passengers at a crash on the Sudbury branch on 17 August 2010. [76488]

Mrs Villiers: The role of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) is to conduct independent investigations into accident and incidents on the railways of the UK for the purpose of improving safety. The RAIB undertook an investigation into the accident on 17 August 2010 at Sewage Works Lane and published its report on 11 August 2011 (RAIB report 14/2011, available at:

www.raib.gov.uk

The RAIB made six recommendations including recommendation number six:

> Owners of class 156 units should assess whether or not there is a case for improving the crashworthiness performance of the tables on Class 156 units and implement any measures found to be reasonably practicable. When undertaking this assessment, the owners should seek the co-operation of operators of Class 156 units.
>
> The owners of Class 156 units are rolling stock leasing companies (known as ROSCOs); in this case the Porterbrook Leasing Company and Angel Trains.
>
> The Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations 2005 places a duty on the safety authority, the Office of Rail Regulation, to ensure that recommendations are considered and where appropriate acted upon. The RAIB has no role or statutory powers to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, other than if it becomes relevant as part of a subsequent investigation.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of people who are required to stand on train services between Leeds and Halifax because of a lack of capacity between *(a)* 7 am and 10 am and *(b)* 4 pm and 7 pm. [76421]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has undertaken no analysis of the number of people required to stand on train services between Leeds and Halifax. Under the terms of their franchise agreement with the Department, operators (in this case Northern Rail) are required to align their resources in a way which best matches demand.

As part of the Government's High Level Output Specification (HLOS) intervention, 60 additional carriages are to be in operation on the Northern network by mid December.

Road Works

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department proposes to take to prevent utility companies from passing lane rental charges on to consumers. [72669]

Norman Baker: The Department's proposals for lane rental initially would involve a very small number of pioneer schemes that are carefully targeted, with charges only being applied on the busiest streets at the busiest times. These would be used to gather evidence. This targeting maximises the opportunity for utility companies to reduce or avoid their exposure to charges by working in less disruptive ways. In addition, approval for a scheme would only be granted by the Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), where any costs were justified by the benefits from reduced traffic congestion. The impacts of any pioneer schemes, including any effects on utility bills, will be carefully considered before decisions are taken on whether lane rental could usefully play a wider role.

Ryanair: Disabled People

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to discuss the treatment of people with a disability by Ryanair with the Civil Aviation Authority. [76114]

Mrs Villiers: The rights of disabled air travellers are set out in European legislation which has been accepted throughout the European Union. Ryanair is an Irish registered airline and any questions in relation to its fulfilment of its obligations to disabled air travellers under European law is a matter for the Irish Civil Aviation Authority.

EC Regulation 1107/2006 gives disabled air travellers and persons of reduced mobility access to air travel and assistance when they fly to and from Europe. It imposes legal obligations on airport managing bodies, air carriers, and their agents or tour operators. In the United Kingdom it is enforced by the UK's aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was for each category of cost of the procurement process for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [R] [68714]

Mrs Villiers: In accordance with the invitation to tender, the Department for Transport is not responsible for costs or expenses of any bidder. Therefore the costs to the public purse of the whole procurement process to June 2011 (including design) is £19.2 million which was spent on external advisers. Of this total, £13.9 million was incurred under the previous Government. These figures are in addition to internal staff costs.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the rail consultants Interfleet's report on Thameslink train formations from January 2010. [76491]

Mrs Villiers: The Interfleet report is the subject of a public interest test for a freedom of information request that the Department is currently processing.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74939]

Chris Grayling: The Department publishes details of the business expenses incurred by its most senior staff, including members of its management board, on its website. The data relating to the period 1 May to 31 December 2010 can be accessed via:

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/scs-expenses.shtml

Details of the business expenses incurred between 1 January and 30 June 2011 will be released in due course.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74211]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Contract value range	*Number of contracts*
£100,000 to £500,000	671
£500,000 to £1,000,000	217
£1,000,000 to £5,000,000	367
£5,000,000 to £10,000,000	97
£10,000,000 to £50,000,000	94
£50,000,000 to £100,000,000	35
£100,000,000 to £500,000,000	48
£500,000,000 to £1,000,000,000	3
£1,000,000,000 to £5,000,000,000	7
£5,000,000,000 and above	0
Total	1,539

Notes:

1. These figures include DWP and its NDPB's.

2. This Contracts Database was created in 2010, there was no central repository of contact data before that time.

Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74329]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has paid the following amounts to settle transport related fines incurred by DWP staff since 2007:

	Number	*Amount (£)*
2006-07	343	12,585.25
2007-08	98	6,298.13
2008-09	217	10,713.00
2009-10	403	23,951.00
2010-11	447	20,847.20
2011-12 to date	125	6,974.50

The figures above represent fines incurred by DWP staff driving DWP official fleet vehicles and hire vehicles on departmental business. This information should be viewed in the context of a Department employing over 100,000 staff.

The contractors who provide the private user scheme (PUS), official vehicles (OV) and hire cars are the registered keepers of any vehicles leased or hired by the Department. The contractors pay the fines directly and then invoice the driver; only in exceptional circumstances are the department charged by the contractor when they have difficulty in retrieving the fine.

This Government introduced a policy to recover fines more rapidly. Consequently, DWP has a process to recover fines in place that was introduced on 16 May 2011 and is at present recovering fines back to 1 April 2010.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74909]

Chris Grayling: A number of staff in the Department relocate each year for a variety of reasons, which could include for example taking up new opportunities in the Department or other Government Departments or for personal reasons. As a Department we do not keep records on these types of moves.

In terms of moves at public expense, the Department has only had one such move of home relocation in the last 12 months. This move was from Northamptonshire to London.

Departmental Speaking Engagements

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials in his Department have spoken in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76789]

Chris Grayling: The following table details recorded information relating to speeches given by this Department's Ministers since May 2010 to the organisations mentioned. We are unable to provide a breakdown by organisation type as the vast majority of the organisations that Ministers have spoken to fit into two or more of the categories mentioned.

There are approximately 200 senior officials in this Department but no central record is held of speeches made by them to outside organisations, we are therefore unable to collate this information.

	Number
2010	
May	0
June	16
July	12
August	1
September	8
October	19
November	27
December	11
2011	
January	8
February	11
March	26
April	5
May	19
June	26
July	14
August	0
September	12
October 2011 (to date)	20

Employment and Support Allowance

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* applied and *(b)* had an application refused for employment and support allowance in each month since the work capability assessment started; and how many of those whose applications were refused had it granted on appeal in each of those months. [76268]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in July 2011, covers new claimants to ESA for October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available) and can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 1 in the above publication shows that since the introduction of ESA in October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available), there were 1,342,100 new ESA claims and, of these, 517,900 (39%) were assessed to be fit for work at initial assessment. These figures are published by month of claim start and by region in table 1.

Table 3 in the above publication presents data on ESA claims up to the end of May 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in this publication) where the person claiming has been found fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service by the end of April 2011 (the latest data we have from the Tribunals Service).

This shows that for ESA claims starting between October 2008 and May 2010, there were 146,200 appeals heard on fit for work decisions at initial assessment. Of these appeals, 56,500 (39%) concluded in favour of the appellant. These figures are published by month of claim start in table 3.

Employment and Support Allowance: Mining and Steel Industries

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of employment and support allowance were formerly employed in the mining or steel industries in the latest period for which figures are available. [75922]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Information on occupation may be collected for some benefit claimants as part of the claims process, in particular, those in employment at the time of claim, but is not carried through to the datasets available for analysis. Information on employment history is not collected.

Information on the number of claimants on employment and support allowance is available on the Department's tabulation tool which can be accessed from the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Employment: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people were not in education, employment or training in each region in each of the last 18 months. [75942]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

Tables showing the number of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) by region for the latest six quarters available will be placed in the Libraries of the House. These estimates are from the quarterly Labour Force Survey and refer to England only. Information for the devolved Administrations is available from the respective Governments.

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Please note that these estimates are subject to sampling variability and should be viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which give an indication of how accurate an estimate is. For example, the confidence interval for England of +/- 48,000 in the second quarter of 2011 means that the true NEET total could lie up to 48,000 above or below the point estimate (between 931,000 and 1,027,000).

[2] Confidence intervals quoted are 95% confidence intervals.

These statistics are published by the Department for Education alongside the NEET Statistics - Quarterly Brief at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001019/index.shtml

General Medical Council

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made a submission to the General Medical Council's consultation on good medical practice; and if he will place a copy of any such submission in the Library. [76613]

Chris Grayling: The Department did make a recent submission to the General Medical Council's consultation on good medical practice. This has been placed in the Library.

Rented Housing: Cambridge

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will meet councillors and officers of Cambridge city council to discuss the Government's assessment of the efficacy of the Cambridge broad rental market area. [76622]

Steve Webb: Broad rental market areas are an essential feature in calculating rates of housing benefit for tenants in the private rented sector. All English broad rental market areas were reviewed by the Valuation Office Agency rent officers over a two-year period ending in March 2011 and there are no further plans to assess the effect or efficacy of the boundaries.

The hon. Member for Cambridge has raised the city council's concerns about the efficacy of the Cambridge broad rental market area previously. He met with the Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud, in October last year to discuss them and further met with my officials in May this year. My Department understands the issues with the Cambridge broad rental market area but on the whole we are satisfied that these current arrangements are working well and have no plans to review broad rental market area boundaries in the near future.

I would of course, be happy to meet the hon. Member if any new issues have arisen since his earlier meetings.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to uprate pensions and benefits in line with the September 2011 consumer prices index inflation rate. [76770]

Steve Webb: Next year's proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn. As announced in the June 2010 Budget, the consumer prices index (CPI) is the Government's preferred prices measure for benefit and pension uprating and is consistent with the Bank of England's inflation target.

Universal Credit

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of administering universal credit *(a)* monthly and *(b)* fortnightly; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of offering benefit recipients the choice of how regularly they receive payments. [74283]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be introduced in October 2013, and individuals will be migrated to universal credit over the subsequent four years. Costs and benefits over this transition period will depend upon the precise nature of the migration strategy.

In the longer term, reduced administrative complexity may save more than £0.5 billion a year in administrative costs alone. However at this early stage, it is not possible to offer precise figures about specific parts of the process.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which local authorities have undertaken recent additional research into registration; and what research each authority has undertaken. [75892]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not collate additional research carried out by local authorities and is not aware of any such research into electoral registration carried out by local authorities in the past year.

The most recent research it has seen was carried out by Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board in 2009.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many and what proportion of eligible people were registered to vote in each year since 1990. [75898]

Mr Streeter: There is no regularly available data on the total eligible population in the UK. Estimates of non-registration can only be obtained through research into the electoral register.

The most recent national estimate of the proportion of the eligible electorate registered to vote used the 2001 census data. It found that 91% to 92% of those who were eligible in England and Wales were on the register.

The number of entries on the UK parliamentary register on 1 December in each year since 1990 is as follows:

	UK parliamentary register entries
1990	43,663,423
1991	43,556,783
1992	43,724,886
1993	43,718,537
1994	43,786,734
1995	43,896,208
1996	43,984,745
1997	44,203,604
1998	44,296,793
1999	44,388,885
2000	44,423,440
2001	44,695,764
2002	44,363,353
2003	44,136,652
2004	44,180,243
2005	44,403,415
2006	44,773,420
2007	45,082,854
2008	45,194,449
2009	45,420,808
2010	45,844,691

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many people were on the electoral register in each general election year since 1983. [75899]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the total electorate on polling day at each UK parliamentary general election since 1983 was as follows:

UK parliamentary general election	*UK parliamentary register entries*
1983	42,192,999
1987	43,180,753
1992	43,275,316
1997	43,846,152
2001	44,403,238
2005	44,245,939
2010	45,597,461

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the EU directive on animal experimentation. [76710]

Lynne Featherstone: European directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is to be implemented in United Kingdom legislation on 1 January 2013. A detailed assessment of the impact of its provisions is under way following the public consultation on options for transposition which closed on 5 September 2011.

We are now analysing the responses to the public consultation on the options for transposition and will publish a summary report by the end of 2011.

Bolivia: Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions the Government has had with the EU Horizontal Drugs Group on the potential re-accession of Bolivia to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. [74318]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Bolivia withdrew from the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 on 1 July 2011. The Bolivian Government has announced that it will re-apply to the Convention in January 2012, with a reserve on the articles relating to the prohibition of coca leaf. The international community will then have 12 months to consider the reserve.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the EU Horizontal Drugs Group on 4 October. The Government are at the early stages of discussing this issue with their EU and other partners, including the Bolivian Government, to inform their consideration.

Civil Disorder

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested for offences committed in the public disorder in August were identified through *(a)* DNA evidence, *(b)* CCTV evidence and *(c)* other means. [76223]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Cybercrime

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were employed in *(a)* preventing and *(b)* investigating cybercrime in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how many such staff will be employed in (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13 and (C) 2013-14; and if she will make a statement. [75963]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* Prevention and investigation of cybercrime are operational matters for the police and law enforcement agencies. As a result, no staff in the Home Office are involved in these activities.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects her Department plans in the (i) current and (ii) next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74378]

Damian Green: Planned major building and refurbishment projects, over the value of £250,000, in the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 are set out in the following table. The majority of these are required for estate consolidation or to improve the capacity and facilities on the immigration detention estate. Consolidating the Home Office estate will move staff into fewer buildings, releasing savings of over £12 million per annum. The detention estate changes support the UK Border Agency's strategic objectives of securing the border and controlling migration and also help meet the coalition agreement to end the detention of children. Providing details of all building and maintenance works costing less than £250,000 would incur disproportionate cost.

(£)[1]

Project type	*Project name*	*Forecast spend in 2011-12*	*Spend estimate in 2012-13*
New build	Manchester—replacement detection dog kennels and staff handlers accommodation	1,016,667	—
Refurbishment	Liverpool—consolidation project including fit out of Capital Building	3,197,908	—
Refurbishment	London consolidation project—refurbishment works comprising Becket House, Lunar House, Apollo House, Amadeus House, Bedford Lakes, Custom House, Eaton House, Metro Point	2,500,000	7,704,167
Refurbishment	Apollo House, Croydon—lift replacement	815,000	—
Conversion and fit out	Pre-departure accommodation (Cedars), Pease Pottage, Crawley	3,653,257	—
Conversion and fit out	HMP Morton Hall conversion to an immigration removal centre (IRC)	3,572,472	—
Conversion and fit out	Conversion of customs custody suites to removal bed spaces	350,000	—

[1] Exclusive of VAT

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what volunteering *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76236]

Damian Green: Home Office Ministers are actively involved with charities on a private basis as detailed in the list of Ministers' interests published by the Cabinet Office, as well as our involvement in other local voluntary activities in our constituencies.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national offenders subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have been able to remain in the UK on human rights grounds. [75539]

Damian Green: To establish how many foreign national offenders subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements are living in the UK, have been allowed to remain on human rights grounds and the type of offence committed in the UK would require cross referencing a large volume of electronic records, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

857 foreign nationals convicted of an offence subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have been deported from the UK between October 2010 and September 2011.

138 foreign nationals convicted of an offence subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements who have successfully appealed against deportation between October 2010 and September 2011.

Detention Centres: Suicide

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to support those who are held in detention centres who are considered to be at risk of suicide. [76654]

Damian Green: Each immigration removal centre has a comprehensive self-harm reduction strategy in place to support detainees who are deemed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm. The procedures, Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT), provide a holistic approach to suicide and self-harm prevention within the broader context of decency, safety, and the concept of a healthy centre. It also brings existing policy in line with similar changes implemented by the Ministry of Justice.

The ACDT process starts as soon as an individual has been identified as being at risk. It involves an initial risk assessment and assessment interview conducted by specially trained individuals. A specific care map tailored to the issues faced by the individual is produced to ensure provision of multi-disciplinary support, including input from both health care professionals and staff at the centre. The ACDT document is reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the correct support is provided while the individual is thought to be at risk.

Domestic Violence

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the maintenance of local partnerships which tackle domestic violence following the transfer of funding to police and crime commissioners. [75879]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 20 October 2011]*: The Government have made clear the priority they attach to local services tackling domestic violence.

The Home Office is providing dedicated funding for specialist services to tackle violence against women and girls with over £28 million of ring-fenced funding allocated to local services until 2015. This funding will continue to be held centrally, although we would expect police and crime commissioners to also work closely with local domestic violence services, in order to improve the police response to these crimes.

Entry Clearances: EU Nationals

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to make any changes to the restrictions applying to A2 nationals working in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [76773]

Damian Green: The Government have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to report on the labour market case for continuing the existing restrictions applying to A2 nationals. We will consider the committee's report carefully before deciding whether to make any changes, and will announce our decisions before the end of the year.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to Zimbabwean nationals in each of the last 10 years. [76781]

Damian Green: The number of visas issued to Zimbabwean students is set out in the following table:

	Number
2004	793
2005	782
2006	488
2007	391
2008	271
2009	223
2010	248

These data are based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change. Statistical data are not held prior to 2004. The figures are for main student visa applicants only and do not include student visitors.

Extradition

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the response to Lord Justice Scott Baker's review of UK extradition arrangements. [76670]

Damian Green: The independent review of the United Kingdom's extradition arrangements was published by way of a written ministerial statement on 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS. Given the thoroughness of the report, it is right that the Government consider the findings very carefully before announcing to Parliament what action we intend to take. An announcement will be made in due course.

Gang Injunctions

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gang injunctions have been implemented since their inception. [74735]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not collect data on a mandatory basis on the use of gang injunctions by local authorities and the police and so we cannot give a definitive number, though we are aware of seven gang injunctions in London, two in Bristol and one in Manchester.

Immigrants: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pregnant women were detained for immigration purposes in 2010-11; and how many of them were released in the late stages of pregnancy because their pregnancy meant that they were not able to fly. [76621]

Damian Green: If a pregnant woman chooses to inform the UK Border Agency of her condition, the detail would be held on her medical file which is confidential between patient and doctor. The UK Border Agency does not hold such information centrally.

The UK Border Agency's published guidance makes clear that pregnant women should not normally be detained. The exceptions to this general position are where removal is imminent and medical advice does not suggest confinement before the due removal date or, for pregnant women of less than 24 weeks gestation, at Yarl's Wood as part of a fast-track asylum process.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women detained for immigration purposes were *(a)* deported and *(b)* released in 2010-11; and how long each such woman was detained for. [76664]

Damian Green: Published information on detention relates to those people held in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities. This excludes those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

The following table shows the available information on number of women leaving detention by reason and length of detention for the 2010-11 financial year.

Women leaving detention by reason and length of detention, 2010-11

Number

	Total detainees	*Removed from the UK*	*Granted leave to enter/remain*	*Granted temporary admission/release*	*Bailed*	*Other*
Total	4,299	2,831	25	1,237	182	24
3 days or less	1,474	1,195	16	249	3	11
4 to 7 days	769	548	4	206	7	4
8 to 14 days	584	323	2	230	27	2
15 to 28 days	485	196	1	236	50	2
29 days to less than 2 months	458	254	0	159	44	1
2 months to less than 3 months	208	132	1	58	17	0
3 months to less than 4 months	111	66	0	36	7	2
4 months to less than 6 months	104	59	1	38	6	0
6 months to less than 12 months	86	46	0	23	15	2
12 months to less than 18 months	12	8	0	1	3	0
18 months to less than 24 months	3	0	0	0	3	0
24 months or more	5	4	0	1	0	0

Notes:

1. Data from Q1 2010 onwards are provisional.

2. All people held are detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers and exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. Figures include dependants.

3. Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

Independent Family Returns Panel: Public Appointments

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the appointment of permanent members of the Independent Family Returns Panel. [76726]

Damian Green: The Independent Family Returns Panel is a key part of the fresh approach to managing family returns which the Government have put in place to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. Members of the Panel were appointed on an interim basis in March 2011 and a recruitment round is now under way to appoint permanent members through fair and open competition. The posts were advertised on 30 June. Interviews of the shortlisted candidates began on 19 September and are due to conclude on 10 November. We aim to announce the membership of the new Panel as soon as possible after that.

Licensing Laws

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to commence section 112 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. [75105]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Following the granting of Royal Assent on 15 September 2001 we will make an announcement on the commencement of section 112 and other sections of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act in due course.

Overseas Workers

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to maintain visa arrangements which permit overseas domestic workers to change employer. [76147]

Damian Green: The Government's recent consultation document "Employment—Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers" set out a number of proposals for reform of the overseas domestic worker provisions, which include making protections more appropriate, should the route be retained. We are currently considering the responses that have been received and will announce our decision in due course.

Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates imported into the UK by air for research purposes were found to be ill or dead on arrival during 2011. [76260]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2011, from the reports we have received to date, no non-human primates imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research were reported to be sick or dead on arrival.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates of each species from each country have been imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in 2011. [76261]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2011, from the reports received to date, the number non-human primates of each species from each country imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research are as shown in the following table.

Country	*Cynomolgus macaque*	*Rhesus macaque*
China	98	0
Mauritius	518	0
Netherlands	98	58
Vietnam	240	0
Total	954	58

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates of each species imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in 2011 were sourced as *(a)* Captive-born (or F1 generation) and *(b)* Captive-bred (F2+ generation). [76262]

Lynne Featherstone: Although the information currently submitted to the Home Office following the acquisition of each batch of non-human primates provides evidence that animals have been born in captivity, there is currently no requirement for the records to indicate whether animals are F1 or F2+. However, from the information available we estimate the respective totals to be as detailed in the following table:

	F1 Captive-born	*F2+ Captive-bred*
Cynomolgus macaque	480	474
Rhesus macaque	0	58

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of assets *(a)* seized and *(b)* frozen under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each of the last three years. [74263]

James Brokenshire: The value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained is as follows:

£ million

	Cash forfeitures orders	*Confiscation orders*	*Total*
2008-09	39.40	216.00	255.40
2009-10	45.96	179.03	224.99
2010-11	40.51	466.16	506.67

The value of assets frozen is not held centrally. Restraint orders (also known as freezing orders) can be made against a defendant's property without the need to calculate the monetary worth of those assets.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the expenditure incurred by police forces in connection with the recovery of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each of the last five years. [74268]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Estate Maintenance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the monetary value of the maintenance backlog *(a)* on her Department's estate and *(b)* for the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the time required to complete such maintenance. [74197]

Damian Green: Estimates of maintenance backlogs are not held. However a requirement for £35 million of anticipated repair work has been identified for future financial years for the Bramshill Police College and Hendon Data Centres which includes an element for backlog repairs. The future of both these sites is under review. The estate is generally maintained through a planned preventative maintenance programme within budgetary limits.

Right of Abode

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for right of residence in the UK her Department has rejected where the applicant is both an A2 national and defines their employment status as self-employed on the basis that her Department believes the applicant is not genuinely self-employed in each of the last three years; [76131]

(2) how many applications for right of residence in the UK her Department has *(a)* received, *(b)* approved and *(c)* rejected where the applicant is both an A2 national and defines their employment status as self-employed in each of the last three years. [76132]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Right of residence applications received from self employed A2 nationals in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and the status of these applications[1, 2, 3]

			Status of application			
Case type	*Year*	*Total applications received*	*Approved*	*Refused*	*Outcome pending*	*Other*[4]
A2 Self Employed	2008	9,550	6,570	2,565	—	415
A2 Self Employed	2009	7,680	6,120	1,345	—	215
A2 Self Employed	2010	9,270	7,150	1,800	*	320

[1] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[3] Applications refer to main applicants only, excluding dependants.

[4] Other includes cases that w ere revoked, withdrawn, superseded, void, etc.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is unable to advise how many applications were rejected on the grounds that the applicant was not believed to be genuinely self-employed. This data is not held in a reportable format on the Case Information Database (CID).

Consequently, in order to provide this information we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of records, which would exceed the cost threshold.

Surveillance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of training surveillance officers in the financial year 2011-12. [70567]

James Brokenshire: Training costs relating to surveillance officers are likely to vary significantly depending on the authority concerned, the nature of the post and the type of surveillance being undertaken. The costs are not held centrally, but by individual agencies or public authorities.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of offences committed in the public disorder in August were identified through *(a)* DNA evidence, *(b)* CCTV evidence and *(c)* other means. [76222]

Mr Blunt: In order to allow timely reporting of statistics on offenders proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences resulting from the 6 to 9 August period of public disorder a dataset has been compiled from manual returns from the courts. The available information does not include information on how offenders have been identified.

This detailed information will likely be held on individual case files which due to their size and complexity have not been reported to Justice Statistics Analytical Services at the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Air Travel

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on first-class air travel by Ministers in his Department since 1 May 2010. [76784]

Mr Djanogly: No Ministers in the Department have travelled first class by air since 1 May 2010.

Latchmere House Prison

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed at HMP Latchmere house; how many prisoners it *(a)* holds and *(b)* has held since 1 September 2011; and what its running costs were in the latest period for which figures are available. [76783]

Mr Blunt: HMP Latchmere house was announced for closure in July 2011 and decommissioned as a prison on 30 September 2011. There are currently 11 staff based at Latchmere house providing on-site security. There are currently no prisoners held at the site. There were 59 prisoners held at the site on 26 August 2011, the closest published population figure to the requested date. The direct resource out-turn expenditure for Latchmere house for financial year 2010-11 was £4.4 million (figure is subject to rounding) and will shortly be published in an addendum to NOMS annual accounts for the period 2010-11.

Magistrates Courts: Domestic Violence Cases

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the reorganisation and merger of magistrates courts on the capacity of such courts to hear domestic violence cases. [76400]

Mr Djanogly: By reforming the court estate, HMCTS has assessed that it will increase courtroom utilisation from 64% to about 75%. This leaves sufficient capacity in magistrates courts to manage the case load, including domestic violence cases.

Of the 93 magistrates courts designated for closure, HMCTS has identified that 22 operate within a specialist domestic violence court system (SDVC). Working with partner agencies, it has assessed the impact and issued guidance to ensure a smooth transition of domestic violence cases to the revised court estate, while maintaining the high level of support for victims.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 8 September 2011 regarding Mr David Evans. [76703]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The letter in question was transferred to the Cabinet Office on 24 October. I will respond to it shortly.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether and with what frequency meetings are held for former armed services personnel who are in prison; [76135]

(2) whether national funding will be made available for veteran support officers in the *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* Probation Service; [76138]

(3) how many former armed services personnel are resident in approved premises in England and Wales; [76139]

(4) what the latest estimate is of the number of veterans who are *(a)* in prison, *(b)* on parole or licence and *(c)* on probation. [76224]

Mr Blunt: Meetings for prisoners who are former armed service personnel take place in prisons where an identified need exists, usually as part of the Veterans in Custody Scheme which operates in approximately 120 prison establishments. The delivery or frequency of these meetings is not centrally mandated by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

The Veterans in Custody Scheme offers support to prisoners who are former armed service personnel and liaises with relevant service-based charities to ensure that this group of prisoners has access to the full range of services that are available. Certain Probation Trusts are implementing similar schemes, so that support and links to service-based charities are also available to offenders in the community.

NOMS has not provided additional funding to deliver this area of work as it is part of offender management which is already centrally funded.

Data on the number of former armed services personnel who are resident in Approved Premises in England and Wales is not centrally collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by analysing information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice announced in a written ministerial statement on 6 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 7WS, the findings of an initial study by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) which estimated that, by analysing a database of prisoners aged 18 years and over on 6 November 2009, 3% of the prison population in England and Wales (2,207 prisoners) are ex-Regular service personnel.

In September 2010, DASA revised the estimate of ex-Regular service personnel to 3.5% of the prison population in England and Wales (2,280 prisoners) to take into account the incompleteness of their service leavers database, which did not previously include reliable data for those who had left the services prior to 1979 (Navy), 1973 (Army) and 1969 (RAF).

The initial report and the updated estimate are available via the following links:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=VETERANS-IN_PRISON_INITIAL_REPORT

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub-VETERANS_IN_PRISON

In a third report, published in March 2011, DASA estimated, by analysing a database of offenders aged 18 years and over who were supervised by probation trusts on 30 September 2009, that there were 5,860 former members of the armed forces on probation in England and Wales. This equates to 3.4% of the probation caseload and is roughly in line with the percentage in prison—3.5%.

This report is available via the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=VETERANS_ON_PROBATION

The estimate of 5,860 includes an upward adjustment of 499 former service personnel to take into account the incompleteness of DASA's service leavers database which did not capture reliable data for all those who left the services prior to 1979 (Naval Service), 1973 (Army) and 1969 (RAF). Therefore, only a total of 5,361 (or 3.1%) were actually matched to a supervision record.

Of the 5,361 veterans matched to a supervision records, 1,038 (19%) had a post-release licence and 4,331 (81%) had either a community order or a suspended sentence.

Note:

Please note that it is possible for an individual to have matched to more than one type of supervision record.

Reoffenders

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce reoffending among first-time offenders. [75558]

Mr Blunt: The Government have set out their radical plans to reduce reoffending in response to the "Breaking the Cycle" consultation, and pilot programmes are under way at a number of sites to develop the approach.

First-time offenders are an extremely disparate group: they may have been convicted of a wide range of offences, have a range of sentence types and lengths and could present anything from a low to a high risk of harm to others. There is a firmly evidenced principle that the allocation of resources is most effectively and efficiently based on the assessed risk and need of the offender.

NOMS is committed to evidence-based commissioning and the approach that will therefore be applied to the rehabilitation of all offenders, including those who have committed their first offence, will be underpinned by the principle that the allocation of resources should be based on the assessed risk and need that the offender presents.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Internally Displaced Persons

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian needs of displaced people in Kachin State, Burma; and if he will make a statement. [76432]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) staff have been closely monitoring the humanitarian situation in Kachin State following the outbreak of conflict earlier this year. We are in contact with a number of organisations working in the affected areas, both from inside Burma and from across the border in China. We understand that as many as 20,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting, many without access to basic needs such as food, clean water and medicine. I have agreed that funding through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian non-governmental organisation already working in the area may be used to assist displaced people in Kachin State.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [76591]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's pay scales have been frozen since 2009.

The Department for International Development is contractually obligated to honour incremental progression for staff below the level of the senior civil service. In addition, all staff earning less than £21,000 p.a. received a base pay increase (in both years) of £250, in line with the coalition Government's directive.

The following table details the number of staff who received an increase, either through incremental progression or as a result of the £250 base pay increase, and the overall average percentage increase in each of the last two years.

	Number of staff receiving an increase	*Average value of increase (Percentage)*
2010-11	1,134	2.2
2011-12	1,014	2.2

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [76595]

Mr O'Brien: The following table details the number of civil servants employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) who in the last financial year (2010-11) earned salaries within the ranges specified.

Salary range	*Number of staff*
£65,000 to £94,999	147
£95,000 to £139,999	8
£140,000 to £174,999	1
Over £175,000	0

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75151]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is taking forward a number of actions to:

Improve our management information on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the introduction of an SME business tag on the new DFID portal.

Stream line competitive processes to reduce potential barriers to SMEs.

Open up channels of communication with SMEs to better understand how we can help create more business opportunities.

As DFID is mid-way through negotiations of key suppliers to the DFID portal that was launched in April 2011, we are not yet in a position to provide a detailed breakdown of all SME contracts for the period requested. However, early indications for the period July to September 2011 indicate that spend with SMEs represented at least 25% of the total spend on supplier contracts during this period.

Further information on the DFID action plan for SMEs is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Work-with-us/Procurement/Actions-to-Assist-Small-and-Medium-Enterprises/

Developing Countries: Teachers

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department plans to contribute to increasing the proportion of teachers who are female *(a)* in rural areas and *(b)* overall in developing countries. [75685]

Mr O'Brien: Girls and women are at the heart of the coalition Government's development agenda. In education, there is evidence that increasing the number of teachers who are female has a positive impact on the retention of girls in school. The recruitment and retention of female teachers is particularly an issue in rural areas. All DFID bilateral education programmes have a specific focus on girls' education as part of a wider programme of support for the education sector, including supporting female teachers in rural areas where appropriate.

In addition, DFID has recently announced a new Girls' Education Challenge, which will support programmes that help to get up to 1 million of the world's poorest girls into school. Funding will be allocated through a competitive process to support those projects best able to demonstrate how they will get more girls into education, which could include supporting programmes that recruit, train, and support female teachers in rural areas.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to assist developing countries to achieve a fully-qualified teacher workforce through *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral mechanisms. [75686]

Mr O'Brien: DFID's bilateral programme focuses on the recruitment, training, and retention of an effective teaching workforce as part of the support for country education plans. DFID provides funding and technical support to partner countries to help ensure that teacher training is of high quality, and that classroom practice is effective. Internationally, DFID is a leading supporter of the Global Partnership for Education, a multilateral fund for education, which also focuses on the importance of an effective teaching workforce when assessing applications for funding. In addition, DFID is working in partnership with the World Bank to develop education system benchmarking tools which will help to identify barriers to teacher training and performance.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the quality of education in developing countries of the use of unqualified teachers. [75687]

Mr O'Brien: Teachers are an integral part of ensuring the quality of education, but in many parts of the developing world it is difficult to recruit, train, and retain sufficient numbers of qualified teachers. More than 3 million more teachers are needed in sub-Saharan Africa alone. This can lead to the use of unqualified teachers.

DFID is monitoring the emerging evidence on the issue, which offers mixed results. In some cases, unqualified teachers have been shown to be effective in the classroom. DFID supports partner countries to develop education programmes, including improving teacher training and standards. In particular, DFID is focused on working with partnerships to achieve results and is investing in better methods of measuring learning outcomes and of benchmarking system performance.

Developing Countries: Waste Disposal

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to deal with the negative effect on developing countries of the importation or dumping of electronic waste. [76120]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK plans for dealing with the negative effects on developing countries of the importation or dumping of electronic waste, is to deal with the problem at the source and to prevent the exportation of hazardous e-waste from the UK so that it does not reach developing countries. Working electrical equipment can be exported for use overseas. However, under the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive, it is always illegal to export hazardous e-waste from the UK for disposal to developing countries. The UK has a national intelligence team and a national environmental crime team. As part of their remit, these teams are tasked with preventing the illegal export of e-waste. They use an intelligence-led approach to target the most prolific, serious and organised illegal waste exporters. This has led to a 98% success rate of finding electrical waste when stopping targeted shipping containers.

Gambia: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on future support to the Gambian Government to maintain and improve the education system. [76329]

Mr O'Brien: In January this year the Bilateral Aid Review confirmed the decision originally taken in 2008 to close the UK's bilateral aid programme in The Gambia. The UK continues to support The Gambia through our contributions to the multilateral development organisations. This includes the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, to which the UK is the second largest donor. The Gambia received $28 million in FTI funding for 2011-12.

Libya: Zoos

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1173W, on Tripoli Zoo, whether he now has further information on the welfare of animals in the zoo. [76727]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Following your earlier question, British officials visited Tripoli Zoo recently to assess the welfare of the animals. All the animals seemed in good condition apart from the stress inevitable after being so close to major conflict. They are well cared for by the dedicated staff who like so many Libyans have been working without salaries for the last few months.

Overseas Aid: Fraud

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on external investigators to tackle aid fraud, based *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK, in each of the last three years. [76667]

Mr Duncan: Since January 2010, the Department for International Development's Counter Fraud Unit has spent £502,000 on externally-sourced investigations. In addition, DFID country offices and departments have also contracted separately for locally-managed external investigators.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the introduction of compulsory, routine herd testing for tuberculosis in camelids *(a)* in endemic tuberculosis areas, *(b)* where they are kept in close proximity to cattle and *(c)* in general. [75359]

Mr Paice: There is no mandatory TB surveillance programme for camelids because they are not regarded as important reservoirs of TB infection for other species.

There are no validated, sufficiently accurate and practical diagnostic techniques to routinely screen live camelids for TB. Surveillance for TB infection in camelids in Great Britain relies primarily on notifications of suspected cases detected during post mortem examination by private veterinarians and Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) regional laboratories. Owners and their private veterinarians are under legal obligation to notify such cases to AHVLA.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the potential for bovine tuberculosis to be spread through the movement of camelids. [74628]

Mr Paice: Camelids in Great Britain are considered to be incidental, spillover hosts of bovine tuberculosis, generally acting as sentinels of the infection in the local badger populations and cattle herds. Our preliminary veterinary risk assessment indicates that they pose a risk of spreading bovine tuberculosis infection mainly to other camelids, for example through mating, movements, purchases and shows. The risk that camelids represent to other species is considered to be low, compared to that posed by transmission from cattle and from badgers.

Food: Origin Marking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to introduce compulsory country of origin labelling for food. [74882]

Mr Paice: Clearer origin labelling is a key commitment in the Government's Programme. We want to ensure that consumers have confidence in the origin claims that are being made.

The new EU Regulation on the Provision of Food Information to the consumer has recently been agreed and will improve origin labelling throughout the EU. Under the new rules we successfully negotiated mandatory origin information be required for fresh and frozen meat. Where claims are made concerning the origin of a food, further information on the origin of the main ingredients will have to be given if these are different to the claim. Information is also required where failure to provide origin information could materially mislead the consumer. This is a significant step forward in the provision of better labelling for consumers.

As part of the package of measures there will be consideration of whether compulsory origin information is needed for other foods (including milk and dairy products) through a report by the Commission within three years. Also the feasibility for mandatory rules on origin labelling of meat used as an ingredient (such as in bacon and sausages), will be considered by the Commission within two years.

There are sector specific mandatory origin labelling rules for fresh or frozen beef, veal, fish, shellfish, wine, honey, olive oil, eggs, certain fresh fruit and vegetables and poultry imported from outside the EU.

We continue to work with industry on ways to improve further transparency in the food chain and, in particular, we are working with the food service sector to improve origin information on food served in catering establishments.

GMOs: Crops

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to hold a public consultation on the use of synthetic animal genes in GM crops. [75811]

Mr Paice: We have no plans to hold a consultation on this matter.

GMOs: Wheat

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment made of the potential size of the (i) UK, (ii) European and (iii) world market for GM wheat before the application by Rothamsted to carry out a field trial of GM wheat was granted on 15 September 2011. [75959]

Mr Paice: The application from the Rothamsted Research institute was assessed in line with the relevant European Union legislation (Directive 2001/18/EC). The evaluation process focuses on the implications for human health and the environment, and does not have regard to the potential market for the GM organism in question.

Veterinary Laboratories: Closures

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the proposed closure of animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales on the diagnostic capability of post-mortems arising from potential changes to the response time between samples being taken from post-mortems and those samples being processed. [75193]

Mr Paice: Currently, there are no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. While some laboratory services will be migrated, all 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance activity.

The majority of samples currently submitted are received by post. Therefore, the proposed changes will not see a delay in test results. The changes will allow AHVLA to reintroduce weekend testing which will improve test turnaround time.

AHVLA's capability to respond to disease outbreaks will be maintained as confirmatory tests for notifiable disease are carried out at Weybridge which is not part of the regional laboratory network.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received representations from *(a)* the Farmers Union of Wales and *(b)* the National Farmers Union on the proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75194]

Mr Paice: Concerns have been raised by some farmers, their representatives and other interested parties on plans to migrate some AHVLA laboratory services functions. Many of the representations received were based on the misunderstanding that AHVLA laboratories would close. There are currently no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. All 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance. Changes to migrate some laboratory services will not prevent AHVLA's ability to respond to disease outbreaks. Nor will they impact upon the notifiable disease surveillance work carried out by AHVLA, as confirmatory tests for notifiable diseases are carried out at Weybridge which is not part of the regional laboratory network.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received *(a)* representations from the chief scientist of her Department and *(b)* any other representations on the possible biosecurity risks of the proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75195]

Mr Paice: We have received no such representations as there are currently no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. While some laboratory services will be migrated, all 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance activity.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has considered alternative proposals to the closure of animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75196]

Mr Paice: There are currently no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. While some laboratory services will be migrated, all 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance activity.

In April 2011, the executive team of AHVLA initiated a review of the delivery of laboratory services across England and Wales. This work followed the earlier AHVLA Sustainable Surveillance Project which recommended that the post-mortem examination of carcasses, which makes up the most valuable aspect of surveillance work, be de-coupled from the provision of laboratory services functions, thus removing the requirement for co-location of the two work areas.

The review focused on identifying the most efficient delivery model for laboratory services. The model of separating these two areas has been well tested and successful at the university veterinary school surveillance centres at both Liverpool and London for some years and since October 2010 at the Newcastle area, where the majority of laboratory services have been carried out at the AHVLA Thirsk laboratory.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she has undertaken an impact assessment on the proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75198]

Mr Paice: There are currently no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. Whilst some laboratory services will be migrated, all 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance activity.

An impact assessment was carried out as part of the review of laboratory services and was used to help make the decisions to rationalise the laboratory service.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [75199]

Mr Paice: AHVLA needs to identify more than £3 million of additional savings in 2012-13 in order to live within its spending review settlement. In April 2011 the Executive Team of AHVLA initiated a review of the delivery of laboratory services across England and Wales. This work followed the earlier AHVLA sustainable surveillance project which recommended that the post-mortem examination of carcasses, which makes up the most valuable aspect of surveillance work, be de-coupled from the provision of laboratory services functions, removing the requirement for co-location of the two work areas. The review focused on identifying the most efficient delivery model for laboratory services.

The model of separating these two areas has been well tested and successful at the university veterinary school surveillance centres at both Liverpool and London for some years and since October 2010 at the Newcastle area, where the majority of laboratory services have been carried out at the AHVLA Thirsk laboratory.

The requirements for laboratory services will be maintained at the current levels for the foreseeable future. Any future plans for reorganisation will be based on the need to sustain the same levels of testing activity as carried out in 2010-11, with the exception of TSE rapid testing which is currently being outsourced. The review recognises there may be opportunities for further outsourcing and does not preclude further reductions in capacity if changes to demand enable such reductions.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency consulted the Welsh Assembly Government on its proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75237]

Mr Paice: Currently, there are no plans to close any AHVLA laboratories in England and Wales. Whilst some laboratory services will be migrated, all 16 regional labs will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance activity.

The laboratory services work carried out at the lab sites at Carmarthen and Aberystwth will continue until March 2013. After this date the laboratories will continue to carry out postmortem surveillance activity.

The Welsh Government were advised of the plans to rationalise the work that each site carried out.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency consult *(a)* workplace unions and *(b)* employees on its proposal to close animal health and veterinary laboratories in England and Wales. [75238]

Mr Paice: AHVLA has consulted with the unions and employees on the proposed organisational changes at several locations within England and Wales. These changes do not imply or rely on site closures.

All regional lab sites will continue to carry out post-mortem surveillance. Staff affected by the changes will be given opportunities to redeploy within AHVLA.

Veterinary Services: Drugs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of discounts to vets on the sale of veterinary pharmaceuticals; what assessment she has made of the effects of such discounts on the manufacturers of such products; what representations she has received on the transparency of such discounts; what plans she has to review such discounts; and if she will make a statement. [74610]

Mr Paice: The purchase of veterinary medicines by practising vets is a commercial matter between them and the suppliers of veterinary pharmaceuticals. The Government do not regulate the price of veterinary medicines.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creative Industries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what the success rate is of new business start-ups in the creative industries after their first year of operations compared to other business start-ups; [76730]

(2) what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other funding schemes his Department provides for small and medium-sized enterprises in the creative industries. [76782]

Hugh Robertson: Responsibility for support to small to medium-sized enterprises across the economy and the monitoring of business performance lies with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). My Department works closely with BIS via the creative industries council on these issues.

British Counties

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department gives to organisations recognising traditional British counties. [75950]

John Penrose: Neither the Department nor its arm's-length bodies provide funding for organisations recognising traditional British counties.

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many velodromes he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [75842]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) and I have visited the Manchester Velodrome and the Olympic Park Velodrome on official business in the last 12 months.

In my capacity as Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I have also visited the Herne Hill cycling track for its formal reopening in September and the Gravesend Cyclopark.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails his Department has received in respect of digital switchover in the last 12 months. [75852]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not keep a central record of all emails received. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of emails received on this subject without incurring disproportionate costs.

However, I can confirm that the Department has received a total of 146 representations concerning digital switchover in the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses *(a)* prepared and *(b)* not prepared for digital switchover; [75944]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households *(a)* prepared and *(b)* not prepared for digital switchover. [75945]

Mr Vaizey: The Government do not collect these statistics. The matter is primarily one for Digital UK, the independent not-for-profit company leading the implementation of switchover. Digital UK's Tracker survey to September 2011 indicates 93% of UK households are now watching a digital TV service on their main television set. In the London TV region, the figure is 89%. Digital UK does not hold the information requested on the number of businesses prepared for digital switchover, but evidence to date suggests they are usually well prepared. Digital UK provides digital TV switchover information to chambers of commerce and other business organisations as part of its information campaign.

Football Association Premier League

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on proposals to end promotion and relegation for the Premier League. [76426]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has not received any representations on this matter, which is solely an issue for the football authorities themselves.

Mass Media

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of *(a)* broadcasting and *(b)* other media on the possible discontinuation of the use of the terms BC and AD; what his policy is on the practice; and if he will make a statement. [75979]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has had no discussions about the use of the terms BC and AD with representatives of the broadcasters or other media. This is a matter for individual broadcasters, publishers and other media companies, which are editorially independent of Government.

Museums and Galleries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to advertise free museums. [75847]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has made no steps to advertise the sponsored museums that offer free admission. Marketing and advertising is an operational matter for each museum.

Olympic Games 2012

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many visits outside London he has made to promote Olympic legacy in the last 12 months. [75783]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), regularly visits the regions to promote Olympic legacy. This will be continued over the next few months as part of a series of regional visits he will be undertaking.

Swimming Pools

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many swimming pools he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [75841]

Hugh Robertson: Since his appointment, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has visited the Aquatic Centre on the Olympic Park on a number of occasions, as well as swimming pools in Plymouth and Bath.

In my capacity as Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I have visited swimming pools in Harlow, Norwich, Ireland, Lincoln, Loughborough, Sheffield, Canterbury, Manchester, Aldershot, and the Aquatic Centre. I have seen British swimmers competing in the Commonwealth Games, visited the Amateur Swimming Association at their home in Loughborough, and met with their chief executive on many occasions.

I also launched the Big Splash, which is the BBC's mass participation campaign for swimming.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Age: Discrimination

Kate Green: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether her Department has issued guidance and communications in advance of the commencement of the Equality Act 2010 provision-sending harmful age discrimination; and if she will place any such guidance or communications in the Library. [76291]

Lynne Featherstone: No guidance on this matter has been issued. Following the public consultation earlier this year, we are currently considering the responses. Details of the commencement of the provision banning age discrimination in services and public functions will be announced in the Government's published response to the consultation in due course. Draft guidance would be published in advance of a commencement of the ban.

Civil Partnerships

Mr Allen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what meetings she *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold with religious groups and religious representatives to discuss the proposals for civil marriage for gay and lesbian people. [76143]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government announced on 17 September the Government's intention to publish a formal consultation document on equal civil marriage in March 2012. From now until the publication of the consultation myself and officials in the Government Equalities Office will be meeting with a wide range of people with an interest in this issue, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups and religious and non-religious organisations, to help shape the formal consultation document.

These meetings are scheduled to take place over the coming weeks and are being held on a confidential basis.

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to improve social mobility; and if she will make a statement. [76607]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government launched the social mobility strategy 'Opening Doors Breaking Barriers' in April 2011. The social mobility strategy is alive to the need to develop tailored responses to remove the barriers faced by different people. The Government Equalities Office works closely with the Deputy Prime Minister to help deliver the strategy. Social mobility is also a central component of the Government's equality strategy, 'Building a Fairer Britain', that we launched in December last year. This is being implemented with the co-operation of a number of Departments under the supervision of the Inter Ministerial Group on Equalities, which is chaired by the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Attorney-General what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76248]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers are committed to participating in the One Day Challenge. Details of related activities will be disclosed by the end of the year.

Law Officers: Cybercrime

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff in the Law Officers' Departments were employed in the prosecution of cases involving cyber crime in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many he expects to be employed for such purposes in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [76477]

The Solicitor-General: Several distinct offences may involve the use of a computer or a network in the commission of or as a target of crime and while the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not have any specific teams or individuals dealing such offences, it does have prosecutors with the skills and knowledge to conduct such prosecutions effectively when required.

The SFO operates a flexible resourcing policy in order to maximise the effectiveness of its resources across its caseload. This means it is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the number of staff who might have worked on prosecuting crimes involving the use of computers or computer networks.

The other Law Officers' Departments do not employ anyone directly involved in the prosecution of such crimes.

EDUCATION

English Baccalaureate: Religion

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many representations he has received on the proposed exclusion of religious education from the English baccalaureate. [74528]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received 2,776 pieces of correspondence about the decision not to include religious education in the English baccalaureate since September 2010.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of local authorities to fulfil their statutory duty to provide careers guidance services to pupils in schools and sixth form colleges. [73924]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Local authorities have a continuing legal responsibility to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people in education or training, under section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. There is no statutory duty on local authorities to provide careers guidance but many do so as a means of supporting young people to participate. The Early Intervention Grant will support local authorities' transitional responsibilities for careers guidance until a new duty on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance comes into force from September 2012.

The Department for Education has not conducted any formal assessment of the capacity of local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties. It is for local authorities to decide how they should meet these responsibilities, taking into account the needs of their local communities. We know that in some areas they are already working with schools to establish sensible transition plans, while in others they are choosing to maintain a full careers service for longer. The Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has powers to intervene if a local authority is failing to meet its statutory duties. Any case for intervention will be based on clear evidence of outcomes demonstrating the extent to which young people in an area are participating in education or training, rather than specific inputs such as the way youth support services are organised.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the reduction in the early intervention grant on the capacity of schools to provide careers guidance services. [73926]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The early intervention grant, which is worth £2.2 billion this year, rising to £2.3 billion next year, will help local authorities to support vulnerable young people to engage in education and training, intervening early with those who are at risk of disengagement. Ministers have been clear that in 2011-12 the early intervention grant will support transitional arrangements so that young people have access to impartial careers guidance in advance of the changes proposed in the Education Bill taking effect.

From September 2012, schools will be placed under a statutory duty to secure access to independent careers guidance for their pupils. It will be schools to determine how they use their resources, including for securing access to careers guidance.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Fourth Report from the Education Committee, Participation by 16-19 year olds in education and training, HC 850, what assessment he has made of the need for face-to-face careers guidance for young people. [73973]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be placed under a duty from September 2012 to secure independent, impartial careers guidance for their pupils. We should trust schools to make sensible decisions regarding the way in which pupils receive careers guidance, without establishing in primary legislation prescriptive standards or requirements.

Young people receive advice on their futures from many different sources but some will benefit from face-to-face support that raises their aspirations and guides them onto a successful career path. We will issue statutory guidance to highlight the need for schools to consider this and other essential issues in pursuance of the new duty.

Vocational Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress he has made in implementing each recommendation of the report on vocational education by Professor Alison Wolf. [75386]

Mr Gibb: The Government response to the Wolf review of vocational education, published on 12 May 2011, accepted all 27 of the recommendations of the report in full.

We have already implemented the following recommendations:

clarified that schools and colleges are free to offer any vocational qualification offered by a regulated awarding organisation (recommendation 2);

announced that industry professionals and FE lecturers will be allowed to teach in schools (recommendation 18); and

reinstated some valued vocational qualifications for teaching from September 2011 (recommendation 23).

Following a public consultation, we will shortly be announcing plans for judging which qualifications should appear in 14-16 performance tables in the future (recommendations 1-3 and 26).

We are currently consulting on:

study programmes for 16 to 19-year-olds (recommendations 5, 6, 9 and 21). This consultation will end on 4 January 2012;

a new 16 to 19 funding formula (recommendations 11 and 12). This consultation will end on 4 January 2012;

proposed changes to allow qualified teachers from further education and from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to become permanent teachers in English schools (recommendation 17). This consultation will end on 16 December 2011; and

removing the statutory duty for schools to provide every young person at key stage 4 with a standard amount of 'work-related learning' (recommendation 21). This consultation will end on 4 January 2012.

All other implementation milestones are on track as set out in the Government response.

The Wolf report on vocational education and the Government response, including key implementation milestones, can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/qualificationsandlearning/a0074953/review-of-vocational-education-the-wolf-report

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Afghan interpreters have assisted UK armed forces in Afghanistan since 2001; what plans are in place to ensure their safety after the withdrawal of UK armed forces in 2014; what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on requests by Afghan interpreters to relocate to the UK; how many such requests have been made in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [75505]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* Afghan interpreters working for the UK armed forces in Afghanistan make an invaluable contribution to the UK's efforts to help support the spread of security, stability and development in the country.

The Ministry of Defence's labour support unit, which looks after the welfare of our Afghan employed staff, estimates that since their records began in March 2006 the Department has employed around 2,000 to 2,400 interpreters. Information on this subject before the establishment of the labour support unit was not routinely retained and the information required to provide a more detailed figure for the subsequent period is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We take our responsibility for all those we employ very seriously and have put in place measures to reduce the risks that they face, and we continually keep our policy under review. Where staff face a serious threat our options include providing protected accommodation, giving safety advice to them and their families, granting extended leave or transferring staff to different jobs. In serious cases we may help staff relocate, either within Afghanistan, to a third country or, in exceptional cases, to the UK. We have received one such request by an Afghan interpreter assisting UK forces in the past 12 months.

Armed Forces: Officers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy officers of the rank of *(a)* captain and *(b)* commodore currently hold (i) sea-going and (ii) shore-based posts; what changes in the numbers of each of these categories he anticipates in the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [75982]

Nick Harvey: Currently there are: 64 Royal Navy commodores and four acting commodores, two hold specific deployable sea appointments; seven hold operational, NATO and Defence diplomacy appointments, the remainder are categorised as shore-based. There are 233 Royal Navy captains and 12 acting captains, 14 of whom hold specific sea-going appointments, 45 hold operational, NATO, Defence diplomacy, and Defence intelligence appointments, the remainder are categorised as shore-based.

As part of Defence reform, the future structure of the Royal Navy is currently under review. The details are still to be determined.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Rheinmetall Landsysteme Fuchs Reconnaissance vehicle to be removed from service; what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse of such a removal; and what vehicle he expects to replace them. [75248]

Peter Luff: The Fuchs vehicle was withdrawn from service in August this year. This will achieve a total saving to the public purse of approximately £235 million over the next 10 years. A decision on the future of the vehicles has yet to be taken.

The removal of Fuchs is possible due to the transfer of specialist Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) responsibilities from the Joint CBRN Regiment, which is being disbanded, to the Defence CBRN Wing. The reductions in manpower and other expenditure associated with this will save the Department approximately £129 million. In addition the Department will save around £13 million in support costs and around £93 million on mid-life vehicle upgrades and replacement vehicles.

We will continue to have a robust and effective specialist CBRN capability. The changes do not affect homeland CBRN protection.

Defence Business Services National Security Vetting

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on Defence Vetting Agency: removal of agency status, what assessment he has made of the effect that the entry of the Defence Vetting Agency into the Defence Business Service organisation will have on delivery of the vetting functions for the *(a)* armed forces and *(b)* intelligence agencies. [75257]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Vetting Agency's (DVA) move into the Defence Business Services (DBS) organisation, and its re-naming as DBS National Security Vetting will have no impact on the delivery of the vetting functions for the armed forces and intelligences agencies.

DBS will remain part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The change in operating status for DBS National Security Vetting will enable the MOD to bring together the delivery of corporate services under one organisation and maximise efficiency whilst ensuring the delivery of vetting service is maintained for the MOD, its industry contractors and other Government Departments.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on Defence Vetting Agency: removal of agency status, what arrangements are in place to ensure that the removal of agency status from the Defence Vetting Agency will not affect *(a)* security or *(b)* service delivery in vetting applicants for the (i) armed forces and (ii) intelligence agencies. [75258]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Vetting Agency (DVA)'s loss of agency status, necessitated by its move into the Defence Business Services (DBS) organisation, will not affect security or service delivery in vetting applicants for the armed forces and intelligence agencies.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s corporate services board chaired by the 2nd Permanent Secretary will monitor the delivery and standard of the MOD'S vetting functions as part of its oversight of the new DBS organisation. The DVA, under its new title DBS National Security Vetting, will maintain its relationship with the Cabinet Office on national security vetting policy issues, and with repayment customers through joint business agreements.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on Defence Vetting Agency: removal of agency status, if he will produce and publish a report on the work carried out by the Defence Vetting Agency between the date of the last annual report of the agency and 1 October 2011. [75260]

Mr Robathan: An annual report and accounts will not be published on the work carried out by the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) between 1 April 2011 and 1 October 2011. There will be no requirement from the National Audit Office to prepare a statement of annual report and accounts for financial year 2011-12 as Executive agency status was removed before the completion of a full financial year.

Departmental Re-location

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed for relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74913]

Mr Robathan: Some employees have to change jobs for legal reasons, for example to meet a Disability Discrimination Act requirement, or to meet urgent departmental needs. The new job may be outside of reasonable daily travel of the civil servant's home or involve additional travel costs. Where this is the case, the Department may decide to assist with those relocation costs, either with a move of home at public expense, or more often, limited help with the extra travel costs in the initial period. As part of a reorganisation or restructure within a business area it may also be necessary to relocate work and the posts associated with that work. This may mean an employee is moved into a specific job, or a group of staff may be moved with their jobs to another location. Additionally many employees change posts but do not attract any relocation allowances.

The number of staff within the 12 month period (1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011) who have moved jobs and been offered assistance with relocation expenses, either a move of home at public expense or more commonly limited assistance with travel expenses are detailed in the following table and set out by new post area.

New relocation area	*Number of staff*
East midlands	35
East of England	196
London	253
North-east	7
North-west	116
Northern Ireland	60
Scotland	64
South-east	373
South-west	1,250
Wales	12
West midlands	124
Yorkshire and the Humber	20
Total	2,510

A large number of employees are issued with change of job notices but many are not eligible for relocation assistance because the moves are in close proximity to their existing job and/or home or because relocation allowances were not offered. However, some employees who have been designated to move with their job to a new location receive advance notice of their job move. The number of staff within the 12 month period (1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011) who have had notice that they and their job is moving to a new area because of reorganisation or restructuring is detailed in the following table; and set out by new post area. However, many of the following may have already submitted relocation claims in the period and so will be included in the numbers given in the first table. These could not be separated without incurring disproportionate cost

New relocation area	*Number of staff*
East midlands	6
East of England	156
London	101
North-west	82
Overseas	8
Scotland	9
South-east	75
South-west	920
West midlands	9
Yorkshire and the Humber	20
Total	1,386

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department has entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74204]

Peter Luff: The following table shows the total number of new Ministry of Defence contracts in each financial year from 2001-02, by contact value at the time the contract was placed.

Total number of new contracts in financial year by contract value at set up stage

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Over £5 billion	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
£1 to £5 billion	1	1	3	2	0	2	2	3	0	0
£500 million to £1 billion	0	3	0	3	7	2	1	3	3	3
£100 to £500 million	11	16	10	10	14	6	14	15	17	9
£50 to £100 million	16	15	8	12	12	19	14	17	7	3
£10 to £50 million	73	84	87	81	62	63	103	87	75	86
£5 to £10 million	86	117	80	89	87	80	82	110	77	75
£1 to £5 million	419	681	497	516	448	376	380	382	350	304
£500,000 to £1 million	314	550	388	372	318	286	300	274	266	242
£100,000 to £500,000	1,528	1,847	1,655	1,414	1,247	1,186	1,367	1,244	1,200	1,010
Total	2,448	3,314	2,728	2,499	2,195	2,021	2,264	2,135	1,995	1,732

As a consequence of system changes, the Ministry of Defence could provide equivalent information for earlier years only at disproportionate cost.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75011]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes a robust approach to managing civilian sickness absence. Occupational health and well-being advice and support is available to all employees and line managers. A review of absence policies has ensured that they remain relevant.

Sickness absence rates by average working days lost (AWDL) per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the MOD for the 12 months ending 30 June 2011 (the latest information available) is shown in the following table.

The table includes non-industrial and industrial staff and the staff of the four MOD trading funds but excludes staff in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data is not readily available.

FTE rates[1, 2]

Grade (Equivalent)[3]	*AWDL 1 July 2010-30 June 2011*	*Average FTE strength*
Administrative assistant	11.55	9,043
Administrative officer	9.36	24,462
Executive officer	7.73	11,882
Higher executive officer	6.09	11,260
Senior executive officer	4.73	7,023
Grade 7	3.47	2,765
Grade 6	2.70	774
Senior civil servant	1.48	299
Unknown	5.94	2,315

[1] Data presented reflects the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person, and excludes data for weekends, annual leave and bank holidays. Excludes staff who have been classed as on zero pay.

[2] Average working days lost per FTE are calculated by dividing the total working days lost for each period by a weighted average of the 1st of the month strengths for the period, with the strengths at the 1 January at the start and end of the period receiving a weighting of 0.5, and the strengths at the 1st of the other months in the period a weighting of. 1.

[3] Equivalent civil service grades have been used to amalgamate the various MOD non-industrial, industrial and trading fund grades.

Depleted Uranium

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether officials in his Department have had recent discussions with their counterparts in *(a)* the US and *(b)* other countries engaged in armed conflict on policy on the use of depleted uranium weapons during armed conflicts; and if he will make a statement. [74966]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* There have been no such recent policy discussions. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 339-340W, to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas).

Frigates: Design

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in determining the design of the next generation of frigates for the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [75981]

Peter Luff: The design of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship programme is progressing as scheduled and will be determined as part of its assessment phase, which is expected to complete by early 2014.

Military Bases: Edinburgh

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 879, on military bases, what time scale his Department has set for the phased disposal of the three Defence Estate sites in Edinburgh. [76408]

Mr Robathan: No time scale has as yet been established for the proposed phased disposal of the Edinburgh sites, but sales are currently envisaged to take place over a number of years.

Ministry of Defence Police

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment criteria he plans to use to determine the future size of the Ministry of Defence Police; and if he will make a statement. [75799]

Mr Robathan: Following the comprehensive spending review and the strategic defence and security review, consideration has been given to a range of options that will determine the Department's future requirement for the services and capabilities provided by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police to focus these resources on those areas where civil policing powers can best mitigate the crime and security risks faced by the MOD.

These options are currently the subject of formal consultation with the relevant staff associations and trade unions, and as such it would be inappropriate to go into specific detail at this stage.

Public Service Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74777]

Mr Robathan: All Ministry of Defence civil servants, other than those undertaking activities which can only be carried out from within Government or by Crown servants, have a right to apply to take over the running of the service they provide.

Any applications are assessed against a number of criteria, not least of which is that the proposal must deliver value for money. The Department has provided support to three employee proposals so far. One is not being taken further and the others remain ongoing.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74831]

Mr Robathan: All Ministry of Defence civil servants, other than those undertaking activities which can only be carried out from within Government or by Crown servants, have a right to apply to take over the running of the service they provide.

Any applications are assessed against a number of criteria, not least of which is that the proposal must deliver value for money. The Department has provided support to three employee proposals so far. One is not being taken further and the others remain ongoing.

The number of opportunities is likely to be limited due to the complex support chains and security considerations.

RFA Largs Bay

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the overall cost to his Department was of the construction and equipping of RFA Largs Bay, up to the date when she joined the fleet. [75983]

Peter Luff: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy) on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 506W.

Terrorism: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military locations in the UK have been considered as potential sites for accommodating the victims of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack. [69758]

Nick Harvey: In the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incident within the UK, the local authority is responsible for the provision of emergency shelter. Local authorities through local resilience forums routinely consider the use of Defence real estate and accommodation in circumstances where other provision is overloaded. This includes providing for the victims of a CBRN attack. However information on which sites have been considered for such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Palestine

16. **Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the admission of Palestine to the United Nations. [76308]

Alistair Burt: President Abbas submitted the Palestinian application for full membership of the UN on 23 September. No vote is imminent in the Security Council, while the membership committee considers its recommendation. So far we have not been presented with a detailed proposal on which to take a position. Whether the committee returns the issue to the Security Council, or whether president Abbas decides to turn to the General Assembly, the UK will use its vote in a way which increases the likelihood of a return to meaningful negotiations.

Jewish/Arab Relations

17. **Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to projects promoting co-existence between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel. [76309]

Alistair Burt: In 2010-11, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding a number of projects, through the Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool, on co-existence including enhancing the capacity of Arab entrepreneurs to access increased employment opportunities in the Israeli High-Tech sector.

We are also providing funding to train and support the placement of Arabic teachers into Jewish schools as part of a cultural bridge programme.

Israel

18. **Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent settlement announcements by the Israeli Government. [76310]

Alistair Burt: The position of this Government on settlements is unequivocal—settlements are illegal, provocative and a significant obstacle to peace. They must stop. I was dismayed at the announcement of the Israeli Government of 14 October for plans of a new settlement at Givat Hamatos, and I reiterate my call for this plan and that for other settlements to be revoked.

Polish EU Presidency

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the priorities of the Polish presidency of the EU; and if he will make a statement. [76311]

Mr Lidington: The UK has worked closely with Poland during its presidency of the EU to make progress on measures to promote free trade, complete the single market and boost competitiveness. As the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), said after the European Council, this is a strong British agenda and one we've been arguing for years.

In addition, I attended the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw with the Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg). We worked with Poland and other EU partners to ensure that a powerful signal was sent to our eastern neighbours that integration with the EU depends upon their commitment to reform.

Zimbabwe

20. **Neil Parish**: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of bilateral relations with Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [76312]

Mr Bellingham: Zimbabwe remains very important to the UK. This is reflected in our £80 million Aid programme; providing essential services to the people of Zimbabwe.

We have contact with all parties in the Inclusive Government and are continuing our policy of supporting reformers, including in the region, as they work towards free and fair elections.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are based in Zimbabwe. [76739]

Mr Bellingham: There are approximately 70 staff working at our embassy in Harare. This includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Syria

21. **Jack Lopresti:**: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Iranian involvement in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [76313]

Alistair Burt: Credible information shows that Iran is continuing to provide equipment and technical advice to help the Syrian regime suppress the legitimate demands of protestors in Syria. Such support is unacceptable. As elsewhere in the region, protestors in Syria must be allowed to express their legitimate aspirations and call for change without fear of brutal repression.

Sub-Saharan Africa

22. **Chi Onwurah**: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote trade between countries in sub-Saharan Africa. [76314]

Mr Bellingham: My Department is working with the Departments for International Development and Business, Innovation and Skills in support of the African Free Trade Initiative (AFTI), which was launched in February this year. This initiative comprises an ongoing programme of activity. For example, last month our high commissioner in Kenya participated in an Infrastructure Investment Conference in Nairobi, which was supported by DFID, to encourage public and private investment in infrastructure projects in East Africa.

Libya

23. **Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Libya; and what recent discussions he has had with the National Transitional Council. [76315]

Alistair Burt: The Declaration of National Liberation on 23 October represents a historic victory for the people of Libya in their struggle for freedom. We welcome the National Transitional Council's confirmation that they will form an inclusive Transitional Government and work towards democratic elections.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), visited Tripoli on 17 October and had discussions with National Transitional Council Chairman Jalil on a range of issues.

Bangladesh

24. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of bilateral relations with Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [76316]

Alistair Burt: Relations between the UK and Bangladesh are strong. We cooperate closely in a number of key areas, including climate change, poverty reduction, human rights and counter-terrorism. We engage regularly with the Bangladesh Government on these issues, including through our substantial development programme.

Pakistan

25. **Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Pakistani authorities' attempts to tackle violent extremism in that country. [76317]

Alistair Burt: The threat from violent extremism is one we share with Pakistan. And we continue to work with and encourage Pakistan to take even more steps in its fight against violent extremism; Pakistan's enemy is our enemy. Pakistani authorities continue to highlight the voices of terrorist victims to audiences across the country and are actively working on deradicalisation work.

Afghanistan: Females

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to increase international support for women's rights in Afghanistan. [76214]

Alistair Burt: The international community has made clear its support for women's rights as set out in the International Security in Afghanistan Forces (ISAF) declaration at the NATO Lisbon summit held in November 2010, which stressed

> "the importance of Afghanistan standing by its constitutional and international obligations on human rights, particularly regarding the rights of women, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security."

We continue to work closely with international partners and international civil society organisations to uphold women's rights in Afghanistan. This includes participation in the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission donor group and the EU Human Rights Working Group.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he is giving to establish a dialogue between the Government of Bahrain and those who took part in demonstrations earlier in 2011. [76337]

Alistair Burt: As a long standing friend of Bahrain, the UK stands ready to assist in efforts towards reform and reconciliation. We continue to stress the importance of open dialogue to bring long-term stability and encourage the Bahraini authorities and opposition groups to show real leadership through constructive engagement. I have discussed this with the Bahraini ambassador and our embassy in Bahrain is also in regular contact with the authorities there.

Colombia: Human Rights

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise concerns about human rights with the President of Colombia during the latter's forthcoming visit to the UK. [76098]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Human rights remain an integral part of our relationship with Colombia and we regularly raise human rights with senior members of the Colombian Government. Our discussions with President Santos during his visit will cover a range of issues, including human rights, as well as trade, prosperity, international cooperation, climate change, science and innovation and counter-narcotics.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75708]

Mr Lidington: Details of ministerial meetings are published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/#Ministers

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75001]

Mr Lidington: In 2010-11, total global spend on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines, as well as electronic subscriptions, was £2.2 million down by 9% from £2.4 million in 2009-10, a figure which was given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1001W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has partly achieved savings by partnering with other Government Departments to obtain best value when purchasing these goods and services.

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75016]

Mr Bellingham: This information is being collated and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as it is available.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76238]

Mr Lidington: Ministers carry out their duties in line with the Ministerial Code. Any volunteering activities in a personal capacity are a private matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-ministers-interests

Egypt: Elections

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information has been received by his Department about the process under which the elections in Egypt will be conducted. [76105]

Alistair Burt: The parliamentary elections in Egypt are governed by laws which define the registration of political parties, the electoral system and the powers of the Higher Electoral Commission. The elections to the Lower House are due to begin on 28 November and run in three rounds until January 2012, and those to the Upper House to run between January and March 2012. The first joint session of the two houses is due to take place on 24 March.

No date has been set for presidential elections, although the Supreme Council of the armed forces has indicated possible dates of March or April 2013.

We will continue to encourage the Egyptian authorities to set out a transparent timetable for the transition to democratic government, with plural and open elections witnessed by the international community, and a process of inclusive national dialogue.

Human Rights

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department will be sending representatives to the conference on social media and human rights in *(a)* Sweden on 16 November 2011 and *(b)* Silicon Valley on 25 and 26 October 2011. [76084]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government strongly support freedom of expression on the internet, and engaging with civil society and experts from academia, non-governmental offices and the private sector is crucial to our understanding of a complex set of issues. The Silicon Valley Human Rights Conference on 25 and 26 October will explore how high-tech industries can plan for and manage the human rights implications of their technologies. The Head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Human Rights and Democracy Department will take part.

Our embassy in Stockholm has received an invitation to a round-table discussion on social media and human rights on 16 November and is planning to participate.

Iran: Prisoners

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Iranian Government on the imprisonment and sentencing of actress, Marzieh Vafamehr. [76056]

Alistair Burt: The UK is aware of the shocking sentence of one year and 90 lashes handed to Marzieh Vafamehr, allegedly for her role in the film 'My Tehran for sale'. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials spoke to the Iranian chargé d'affaires in London on 20 October 2011 to seek clarification of Ms Vafamehr's charges. The UK believes that such state-sanctioned corporal punishment has no place in the modern world and urges the Iranian authorities to review this case and the reported sentence.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [76736]

Mr Bellingham: There are approximately 12 staff working at the governor's office in Grand Turk. This includes UK-based civil servants and Turks and Caicos Islands Government staff. In addition, the UK Government are providing the Turks and Caicos Islands Government with support from a number of short and medium-term specialist advisers.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of gun crime were reported in the Turks and Caicos Islands in each of the last five years. [76734]

Mr Bellingham: The cases of gun crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands from 2009-11 are shown in the following table.

	Number
2009	63
2010	124
2011 (to date)	45

I will send my hon. Friend the figures for 2007 and 2008 by letter as soon as they are provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands police force.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [76737]

Mr Bellingham: Reported crimes currently remain low with the majority being acquisitive crime such as theft and burglary. Armed robberies, some against tourists, and aggravated burglaries, while still relatively small in number, continue to be of concern.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many police officers are on secondment from UK police forces to the Turks and Caicos Islands. [76735]

Mr Bellingham: There are no serving UK police force staff seconded to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands police force.

There are a number of former UK officers providing specialist advice and support including in the cold case unit, the community policing unit and the joint intelligence unit. All are on contract until next year.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Radar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 633W, on Turks and Caicos Islands: radar, what have been the costs to date of keeping elements of the Turks and Caicos Islands Coastal Radar System Project in storage awaiting installation. [76745]

Mr Bellingham: The total storage cost for the equipment for Costal Radar Station was US $34,949.67.

Zimbabwe: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the UK's relations with Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [76738]

Mr Bellingham: Zimbabwe remains very important to the UK and this is reflected in our £80 million Aid programme this financial year which will provide essential services to the people of Zimbabwe.

The British Government have contact with all parties in the Inclusive Government. We are continuing our policy of supporting reformers, including in the wider southern Africa region, as they work with these parties to agree steps towards free and fair elections.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has recently had discussions with his counterpart in Zimbabwe. [76743]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has not met his Zimbabwean counterpart, Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwe. However, in my role as Minister of Africa, I met Minister Mumbengegwe on 23 September at the UN General Assembly in New York.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he intends to accept the offer by the Committee on Climate Change to provide information and advice on how local authorities can reduce their carbon emissions. [76446]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Yes.

Climate Change

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1249-50W, on climate change, what estimate has been made of the cost to the consumer of implementing policies on climate change beyond the Budget period up to *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2030. [76221]

Gregory Barker: DECC published an assessment of the impact of climate change and energy polices on energy prices and bills for households and business consumers in 2010, 2015 and 2020 alongside the July 2010 Annual Energy Statement available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/price_bill_imp/pricebillimp.aspx

The headline results were that energy and climate change policies were estimated to add around 1% (£13 in real 2009 prices) to the average household energy bill in 2020 (compared to what the bill would have been in the same year in the absence of policies). No estimate was made for these impacts in 2030.

An updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills for households and businesses will be published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in the autumn reflecting policy developments over the last year.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74950]

Gregory Barker: Details of expenses claimed between May 2010 and June 2011 are provided at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/who_we_are/management/management.aspx

Details of expenses from June 2011 to September 2011 will be published in due course.

DECC Ministers do not claim expenses from the Department for carrying out daily departmental business or duties.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73838]

Gregory Barker: Pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000 have been eliminated for the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75133]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has advertised 40 contracts on the Contracts Finder website since May 2010. We do not hold details of estimated contract values for eight of the contracts advertised prior to November 2010. The value of the remaining 32 contracts was £21,607,400.00 and is split down by month in the following table.

	Value (£)
May 2010	n/a
Jun 2010	n/a
July 2010	n/a
August 2010	2,000,000.00
September 2010	n/a
October 2010	n/a
November 2010	630,000.00
December 2010	182,000.00
January 2011	717,200.00
February 2011	0.00
March 2011	85,000.00
April 2011	10,349,000.00
May 2011	394,000.00
June 2011	130,700.00
July 2011	0.00
August 2011	19,500.00
September 2011	5,100,000.00
October 2011	2,000,000.00

No contracts were awarded to third sector organisations. The Department does not currently record the size of the companies to whom it has awarded contracts and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish this information. However, out of the 40 contracts advertised, 19 were suitable for small business to apply for.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76241]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. and hon. Friends and I are actively involved with numerous charities on a private basis including those detailed in the list of Ministers' interests, published by the Cabinet Office.

Energy: Industry

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the impact of his Department's climate change policies on energy-intensive industries. [76211]

Gregory Barker: The Department is examining the impact of climate change policies on energy-intensive industries as part of its work to develop a package of measures to assist those energy-intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies, in order to reduce the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses. The Department is working with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury on the development of the package.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department has given on emissions reduction and decarbonisation to energy intensive industries. [76212]

Gregory Barker: The Department has established climate change agreements with energy intensive industry whereby agreement holders receive a 65% discount from the climate change levy in return for meeting demanding energy efficiency targets. More generally, it is for industry to seek advice on energy efficiency from sources available, including the Carbon Trust.

Energy: Prices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the cost of requiring energy companies to write to customers on how they can achieve a cheaper tariff, prior to the energy summit on 17 October 2011; and whether he sought agreement that such costs should not be passed on to consumers. [76445]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The cost of sending this letter is dependent on the billing system of each supplier, but we would expect it to be low, as suppliers write to their customers about other matters and are required to inform them about the difference between what they pay and the supplier's standard direct debit tariff annually.

Ofgem have estimated that during 2010 a dual fuel customer paying by cash or cheque would have saved between £37 and £126 had they switched to a standard direct debit offer at the beginning of the year.

Information about Ofgem's estimates are available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_Appendices.pdf

Green Deal Scheme

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage the installation of micro combined heat and power systems as part of *(a)* the Green Deal and *(b)* the Warm Front scheme. [76130]

Gregory Barker: Micro combined heat and power systems will qualify for Green Deal finance. Whether micro CHP is recommended for a given property, and the amount of finance offered, will be depend on the individual, circumstances.

There is provision in the Warm Front Regulations for the scheme to offer, where appropriate, alternative technologies. However, at this time we are not intending to include micro combined heat and power systems among the alternative technologies available through the scheme.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the consultation on the secondary legislation to implement the Green Deal will commence. [76208]

Gregory Barker: We recently received Royal Assent to the primary legislation on 18 October, now the Energy Act 2011, which was a significant milestone. We expect to commence consultation on secondary legislation shortly.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that all businesses are able to participate in the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [76209]

Gregory Barker: I can confirm that the Green Deal is open to all businesses. We are about to publish our consultation on the Green Deal and I would encourage everyone to look at our proposed model and send us their views. We will then consider and aim to publish our response in spring 2012.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the Green Deal and the Renewable Heat Incentive work together effectively; and if he will make a statement. [76210]

Gregory Barker: We have announced that microgeneration technologies will be eligible Green Deal measures if they generate savings on fuel bills. We are also designing the Green Deal and Renewable Heat Incentive policy and legislative frameworks that ensure both programmes can work alongside each other.

Miriam Maes

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether Ministers from his Department have had official meetings with Miriam Maes without an official being present since May 2010; [76768]

(2) what meetings have been attended by Miriam Maes in her role as an adviser to his Department since September 2010. [76769]

Gregory Barker: All staff working for the Department, including consultants, attend meetings with Ministers and others as necessary in the course of their official duties.

Oil: Refineries

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* current profit margin of UK refineries in US dollars per barrel and *(b)* the potential additional cost per barrel to UK refineries if the EU decides not to apply a common default value to crude oil in respect of greenhouse gases; whether he has assessed if UK refineries would have to close under such circumstances; what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Transport in respect of their participation in the consultation on the European Commission directive on fuel quality; and if he will make a statement. [76072]

Charles Hendry: Work conducted for DECC in 2011 by the consultancy Purvin and Gertz shows both gross and net refining margins across a range of international oil refineries including those in the UK. Gross margins are shown to cover a range from approximately $4 to $6 per barrel for UK refineries.

There was no impact assessment associated with the proposals to implement article 7a of the fuel quality directive brought forward by the Commission on 3 October and the detail of the proposals has still to be negotiated. It is therefore not possible to come to a definitive view on the costs of implementation at this stage. However the Department is in close contact with the Department for Transport, which leads on this dossier, and we are seeking clarification from the Commission of how they envisage these measures working and what they believe the likely associated costs would be.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the extent to which crude oil may be diverted to refineries outside the EU if a common default value in respect of greenhouse gases is not applied to crude oil. [76073]

Charles Hendry: How such varied default values would impact on crude oil flows would depend on the extent of the differentiation between crudes.

Under the current Commission proposal to implement the fuel quality directive we would expect the vast majority of crudes processed in the UK to fall under the single conventional crude category.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the effect on UK fuel security of oil refining being relocated outside the UK; what information his Department holds on any impact assessment by the European Commission of not applying a common default value to crude oil; what discussions on these issues he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Transport; and if he will make a statement. [76074]

Charles Hendry: While our security of supply is enhanced by the retention of a refining sector in the UK as this balances product reliance between the market for crude oil and refined products, it is operators and investors in the market who are best placed to determine how best to meet evolving product demand. DECC officials are, however, working in conjunction with the industry and other Government Departments to develop a strategic policy framework for the refining industry.

The Commission has not provided an impact assessment for its recent proposals to implement article 7a of the fuel quality directive. My officials remain in close contact with the Department for Transport on these proposals and how best to implement the requirements of the fuel quality directive.

Sellafield

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the maintenance cost was for the Sellafield nuclear site in *(a)* 2011-12 to date and *(b)* each of the last five years. [76436]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The NDA currently reports the breakdown of annual spend in the following categories:

New construction projects
Commercial operations
Decommissioning and termination
Waste and nuclear materials management
Site support and services

The maintenance cost for Sellafield Ltd Site Licence Company primarily fall into the commercial and waste and nuclear materials management operations categories. The following table shows the maintenance cost for Sellafield Ltd in *(a)* 2011-12 to date and *(b)* each of the last five years. The numbers relate to specific routine maintenance activities. It excludes expenditure on major plant enhancement and replacement programmes and overhead allocation.

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12 year to September 2011*
Maintenance cost within Commercial Operations	61	75	81	93	90	38
Maintenance cost within Waste and Nuclear Materials Management	64	74	83	111	107	44
Total	131	149	164	204	197	82

Wind Power: Seas and Oceans

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the fund for UK ports to support offshore wind infrastructure and capability his Department has allocated to date; how many companies have received funding; and if he will make a statement. [76581]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Bids for support under this scheme are made on a confidential basis. Under the Grant for Business Investment scheme, information on grant offers for sums greater than £75,000 is normally published following the payment of the first instalment of the grant, including the name and location of the recipient of the grant and the size of the grant offered.

The scheme is not open to port-only applications. Our objective for this funding is to support the development of offshore wind manufacturing capacity, which will need to be at coastal locations. We therefore expect all applications to involve large-scale manufacturing proposals and to be led either by a manufacturer, or to be jointly led by a port/landowner and a manufacturer.

WALES

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75623]

Mr David Jones: There has been no expenditure on advertising vacancies in the period since May 2010.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many meetings she has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [75718]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), regularly meets a variety of organisations. Presenting the information in the format requested would incur disproportionate cost. Meetings with external organisations are listed on the Wales Office's website.

HEALTH

Abortion

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs have contacted his Department to express a conscientious objection to abortion in the last 12 months. [76719]

Anne Milton: In the last 12 months, the Department has received one letter via my hon. Friend the Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) on behalf of a general practitioner constituent about conscientious objection to abortion. The Department does not maintain a register of doctors who express a conscientious objection to abortion.

Section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 makes provision for conscientious objection and health professionals should follow relevant professional guidance in this area.

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average response time was for ambulances responding to emergency call-outs in Great Yarmouth constituency in each year since 1997; [76555]

(2) how many ambulances responded to emergency call-outs within *(a)* eight minutes and *(b)* 19 minutes in Great Yarmouth constituency in each year since 1997. [76557]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on average ambulance response times and the number of ambulances that have responded to emergency calls in specific locations is not collected centrally.

Data on performance against ambulance response time targets are collected at ambulance trust level only and are published annually by the. NHS Information Centre for health and social care in the statistical bulletin "Ambulance Services England". These documents are available on the NHS Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

The area referred to within the question falls within East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Prior to 2006 East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust was made up of the following ambulance trusts:

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust

Essex Ambulance NHS Trust

East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust

Data prior to 2004-05 was published by the Department. This data is available back to 1998 on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/reports-publications/

Ambulances

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what involvement his Department has had in the development of the next generation of ambulances. [76055]

Mr Simon Burns: This is an operational matter and is being taken forward by ambulance trusts working collaboratively with the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design and University of the West of England.

The Department of Health National Ambulance Director has been involved in the work surrounding the new emergency ambulance design over the last five years.

Management Consultants

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 827W, on departmental spend on management consultants, how much has been spent on management consultants in *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each of the last five years. [76474]

Mr Simon Burns: The amounts spent by the national health service and the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each of the last five years on consultancy services are shown in the following table. Although not specified in the question, special health authorities have been included to provide a response that covers all of the Department's executive arm's-length bodies.

Officials are retrieving the data for Connecting for Health for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. I will write to the right hon. Member with the information in due course and place a copy in the Library.

Consultancy expenditure, 2006-07 to 2010-11

£000

	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
NHS bodies (excluding foundation trusts)[1]	291,047	455,213	419,579	308,462	n/a

Consultancy expenditure, 2006-07 to 2010-11

					£000
	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Executive non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies and special health authorities[2,3]	7,743	24,048	11,324	8,183	8,437
Connecting for Health	5,000	6,300	19,200	n/a	n/a

[1] Primary care trusts (PCTs), strategic health authorities (SHAs) and NHS trusts. The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust. Data for consultancy services expenditure were collected from NHS bodies for the first time in 2007-08.

[2] Figures included for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) are for 'professional and administrative fees'. This category includes litigation and other legal costs as well as expenditure on consultancy services, which cannot be separately identified.

[3] Figures included for the Care Quality Commission do not include external legal advice. It is not possible to identify how much of this expenditure falls within the definition of "consultancy services".

Source:
NHS audited summarisation schedules.

This corrects the information given in my answer to the hon. Member on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 783-85W, for which a revised table is provided as follows:

					£000
	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Pharmaceutical products[1]	10,032,337	9,870,045	9,808,634	9,813,375	9,708,351
IT equipment[2]	219,415	204,016	261,115	253,230	205,327
IT services[3]	186,760	190,066	207,703	194,276	203,080
Hospital equipment[4]	1,864,925	1,934,726	2,061,014	2,016,868	2,024,840

[1] Includes primary care prescribing (primary care trusts (PCTs)) and drugs used in secondary, care (PCTs and NHS trusts).

Source:
NHS audited summarisation schedules (prescribing costs) and NHS financial returns (drugs).

[2] Capital expenditure (purchased additions to non-current assets) under the 'IT' heading PCTs, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and NHS trusts). The figures do not include revenue expenditure on IT equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held.

Source:
NHS audited summarisation schedules.

[3] Revenue expenditure on maintenance and data processing contracts (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts).

Source:
NHS financial returns.

[4] Revenue expenditure on the purchase and maintenance of medical, surgical, x-ray and laboratory equipment. The figures do not include capital expenditure on hospital equipment, which is not separately identifiable from the financial data held.

Source:
NHS financial returns.

[5] Consultancy services (PCTs, SHAs and NHS trusts). Data for consultancy services expenditure were collected for the first time in 2007-08.

Source:
NHS audited summarisation schedules.

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

Private Finance Initiative

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there has been any change to his Department's policy on the use of the private finance initiative since April 2010. [76136]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government confirmed they remain committed to public-private partnerships, including the private finance initiative (PFI), in new policy guidance published by HM Treasury in December 2010. PFI proposals will continue to be considered on a case by case basis and must be demonstrably value for money and affordable.

Departmental Speaking Engagements

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials in his Department have spoken in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76788]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), gave on 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1078-79W.

A list of speaking engagements undertaken by senior staff in the Department could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76237]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's Ministers are pleased to support the One Day volunteering challenge, the initiative announced in the Giving White Paper on 23 May 2011. Some Ministers will be regularly involved with charities or local voluntary and community organisations in their capacities as Members of Parliament, and some Ministers will be involved in such activity on a private basis. Relevant voluntary work with charities is recorded in the list of Ministers' interests published by the Cabinet Office.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Appointments Commission using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [76038]

(2) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Health Protection Agency using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [76039]

(3) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Human Tissue Authority using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [76042]

(4) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by NHS Blood and Transplant using the Government Procurement Card was in 2009-10; [76043]

(5) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the NHS Business Services Authority using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [76044]

(6) what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [76045]

Mr Simon Burns: The documents containing the information requested, where available, have been placed in the Library.

Data provided by the Appointments Commission cover transactions between 23 September 2009 and 31 March 2010 which their service provider was able to access through their on-line query system. Information before this period is held in paper format and would require manual extraction, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Data provided by the Health Protection Agency cover the last four months of financial year 2009-10. Earlier records are only available subject to service provider's contractual terms of two to three weeks, and a fee.

NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) has provided supplier details from February 2009 onwards. Information prior to this date is held on a separate finance ledger of a previous organisation. NHS BSA have provided earlier transaction information but it would not be possible to obtain supplier detail without disproportionate costs.

Health and Social Care Information Centre

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Health and Social Care Information Centre using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [76040]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the Health and Social Care Information Centre's Government Procurement Card transactions in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Financial year	*Statement date*	*Details*	*(£)*
2007-08	8 May 2007	Neopost Romford	1,030.00
2007-08	8 May 2007	Jurys Hotel Bristol Conferences	1,607.50
2007-08	10 June 2007	General Dental Council (CD Rom)	205.63
2007-08	10 June 2007	The Business Design Ct London	74.03
2007-08	10 June 2007	Wp Securit World Ltd	206.21
2007-08	8 September 2007	Interest and Charges	32.24
2007-08	8 September 2007	M&E Commerce	35.73
2007-08	8 December 2007	Specsavers	425.00
2007-08	8 December 2007	Verisign	1,056.33
2007-08	8 December 2007	Stationery Office Books	78.75
2007-08	8 December 2007	Stationery Office Books	18.10
2007-08	8 December 2007	RS Live—Conference Fee	159.39
2007-08	8 December 2007	Interest and Charges	32.39
2007-08	8 November 2007	Interest and Charges	46.22
2007-08	9 December 2007	Interest and Charges	36.62
2007-08	9 December 2007	TV Licensing	135.50
2007-08	9 December 2007	Royal stat	205.00
2007-08	8 January 2008	Interest and Charges	31.60
2007-08	8 January 2008	KWL Partnership Comp Software	200.59
2007-08	10 February 2008	Hotels.Com Dublin	357.27
2007-08	10 February 2008	Interest and Charges	9.47
2007-08	9 March 2008	Interest and Charges	30.74
2007-08	8 April 2008	Interest and Charges	0.56
2008-09	8 May2008	www.mobilefun.co.uk	27.45
2008-09	8May2008	Interest and Charges	0.57

Financial year	*Statement date*	*Details*	*(£)*
2008-09	8 June 2008	Royal Armouries Leeds—Conferences	2,552.55
2008-09	8 June 2008	Interest and Charges	28.02
2008-09	8 July 2008	Redcliffe Catering Birmingham	3,544.20
2008-09	10 August 2008	Perform Inc Montreal	2,626.91
2008-09	10 August 2008	Interest and Charges	103.04
2008-09	8 September 2008	Interest and Charges	30.26
2008-09	8 September 2008	Brakes Catering	1,703.75
2008-09	8 October 2008	Helford 2000 Ltd	1,291.33
2008-09	8 October 2008	Interest and Charges	12.43
2008-09	9 November 2008	Kaplan	1,116.25
2008-09	9 November 2008	Marks and Spencer	1,237.49
2008-09	9 November 2008	Interest and Charges	50.80
2008-09	8 January 2009	Brakes Catering	504.08
2008-09	8 January 2009	Refund	-306.93
2008-09	8 February 2009	Stationery Office Books	48.75
2008-09	8 February 2009	Ahima Books	71.89
2008-09	8 February 2009	Istock International	433.25
2008-09	8 February 2009	Interest and Charges	27.51
2008-09	8 March 2009	Interest and Charges	30.29
2008-09	8 March 2009	Amazon	26.50
2008-09	8 March 2009	CK Software	580.86
2008-09	8 March 2009	Main Task Ltd	215.87
2008-09	8 March 2009	CK Software	416.00
2008-09	8 April 2009	Wp Securit World Ltd	355.44
2008-09	8 April 2009	www.CIM.co.uk	24.50
2008-09	8 April 2009	Hands on technology	2,119.27
2009-10	10 May 2009	Interest and Charges	53.64
2009-10	10 May 2009	Ramada Plaza Southport	600.00
2009-10	10 May 2009	Amazon—ergonomic computer equipment	41.25
2009-10	8 June 2009	Royal stat	780.00
2009-10	8 June 2009	Dimension8 Ltd	93.15
2009-10	8 June 2009	Vision UK	80.00
2009-10	8 July 2009	Interest and Charges	70.31
2009-10	8 July 2009	Stationery Office Books	31.00
2009-10	8 July 2009	www.logmein.com	2,800.00
2009-10	8 July 2009	Survey Monkey	780.00
2009-10	8 July 2009	Brakes Catering	473.11
2009-10	8 January 2010	Intercharge Communications	229.13
2009-10	8 January 2010	Royal Mail	112.58
2009-10	8 January 2010	Next	231.95
2009-10	8 January 2010	Peyton and Byrne	1,292.50
2009-10	8 January 2010	Amazon—computer equipment	47.20
2009-10	8 January 2010	APM	959.00
2009-10	8 March 2010	Adobe Systems Ltd	844.95
2009-10	8 April 2010	Interest and Charges	37.60
2009-10	8 April 2010	Amazon—computer equipment	26.80
2009-10	8 April 2010	ACCA	138.00

Health: Free Schools

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on health standards in free schools. [76141]

Anne Milton: Both Departments are clear that the hallmark of all good schools is that they understand well the connections between pupils' physical and mental health, their safety, and their educational attainment.

Health Ministers and Education Ministers have regular discussions about school matters in the course of their ministerial business, supported by regular discussions at official level.

Hospitals

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the provisions of ventilation machines and related equipment for patients diagnosed with muscle-wasting diseases who experience respiratory difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [76424]

(2) how much the NHS spent on unplanned emergency hospital admissions for people diagnosed with neuromuscular conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [76425]

Paul Burstow: Information on the cost of unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions is not collected centrally.

Local health bodies have responsibility for ensuring adequate provision of ventilation machines and other health services is made available to those living with neuromuscular conditions.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of hospital-acquired infections for *(a)* foundation trusts and *(b)* acute trusts were in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [76220]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally in the format requested.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier of each transaction undertaken by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority using the Government Procurement Card was in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [76041]

Anne Milton: The information requested for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 is available on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's website at:

www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/GPC_Transactions_2008-09.pdf

and

www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/GPC_Transactions_09-10.pdf

respectively.

Information for the financial year 2007-08 is not published and the volume of documentation to be examined is substantial. However, I will write to the hon. Member when we have collated this information and place a copy in the Library.

Melanoma: Drugs

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to reconsider its recent decision not to recommend the use of Yervoy for patients with advanced melanoma; and if he will take steps to make provisions for the use of Yervoy by the NHS for such patients. [76556]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published final guidance on the use of Yervoy (ipilimumab). for the treatment of previously treated unresectable stage III or IV malignant melanoma. NICE is currently consulting on its draft recommendations. NICE is an independent body and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene in an ongoing technology appraisal.

In the absence of final NICE guidance on a drug, it is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to make funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence.

Where a cancer drug is not routinely funded by a PCT, patients may be able to access the drug through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

NHS: Foreign Nationals

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether US military personnel based in the UK make use of the national health service. [76091]

Mr Simon Burns: US military personnel are able to make use of the national health service, although our understanding is that US forces primarily make use of private health care services.

Generally, overseas visitors to the United Kingdom are chargeable for NHS hospital treatment unless an exemption applies to them under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011. There is an exemption for those who are serving with the armed forces of a country which is part of NATO when the necessary services cannot readily be provided by the armed forces of the overseas visitor's own country or those of the UK. The spouse/civil partner and dependent children of such a person are also exempt in this way.

NHS: Inflation

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the rate of inflation on the real-terms increase in the NHS budget. [76140]

Mr Simon Burns: The real-terms increase in the national health service budget has a precise meaning. Real terms is measured against the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator. The GDP deflator is the general measure of price increases across the whole economy. It reflects the prices of all domestically produced goods and services in the economy. Real terms is the cash increase above the GDP deflator.

Funding growth over the spending review period, using latest inflation forecasts, is about 1% real; a cash increase over the spending review period of £12.6 billion, as shown in the following table.

Total NHS expenditure, 2010-11 to 2014-15

		Total NHS expenditure (£ billion)	*GDP at 28 June 2011 (Percentage)*
2010-11	Out-turn	101.9	—
2011-12	Plan	105.9	2.9
2012-13	Plan	108.4	2.5
2013-14	Plan	111.4	2.7
2014-15	Plan	114.4	2.7

NHS: Managers

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to retain the role of national clinical directors in his Department; and in what way their role will change under his proposals for reform. [76149]

Mr Simon Burns: Our planning assumption is that the Department will rely on the NHS Commissioning Board for senior clinical advice and leadership of the kind currently provided by those fulfilling the role of national clinical director, except where there is potential for conflicts of interest to arise when wider consultation might be necessary. No decisions have yet been taken about whether roles and titles will change under new arrangements. Those will be decisions for the NHS Commissioning Board.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS spending per head of population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Dartford constituency was in each of the last five years. [76083]

Mr Simon Burns: The amount spent per capita in total in England by all primary care trusts (PCTs) and by Kent PCTs, in each of the last five years, is shown in the following table.

					£
Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
West Kent PCT	1,158	1,256	1,362	1,476	1,528
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,269	1,400	1,500	1,646	1,724
All England	1,315	1,428	1,499	1,650	1,716

Data in respect of expenditure per capita in Dartford are not held centrally.

Obesity: Costs

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the NHS in London was of obesity-related illness in the latest period for which figures are available. [76401]

Anne Milton: This information is not centrally held. My hon. Friend may wish to contact NHS London for further information.

Obesity: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS in Kent was of obesity-related illness in the latest period for which figures are available. [76082]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Count of finished consultant episodes in which there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of obesity by primary care trust (PCT) in Kent, 2009-10

PCT	*Total episodes*
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,532
Medway PCT	698
West Kent PCT	1,285

Notes:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) does not hold data relating to costs and only holds obesity data for in-patient care in hospitals. Obesity-related care in a primary care setting is not included in these figures.
2. A count of finished consultant episodes is not the same as the number of patients; a person may have more than one episode of care in a given period.
3. Activity includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
4. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
5. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis: the number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03), primary and secondary diagnosis fields in an HES record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record. The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code used to identify obesity is E66.
6. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Postnatal Depression

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on appropriate treatments for postnatal depression. [76109]

Paul Burstow: We have had no such discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE announced in July 2011 that it intends to carry out a routine review of its existing clinical guideline on antenatal and postnatal mental health.

NICE is an independent body. Its guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is developed free from political interference.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Patients Association on the adequacy of treatment for women with postnatal depression; [76110]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Mental Health Alliance on appropriate treatments for postnatal depression. [76111]

Anne Milton: We have had no such discussion with the Patients Association and the Mental Health Alliance.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to ensure that Government marketing and communications are free from *(a)* political and *(b)* departmental bias following the proposed closure of the Central Office of Information. [75565]

Mr Maude: The closure of COI is part of a package of measures to reform the organisation of Government communications in order to further improve its effectiveness and efficiency. The reforms are designed to increase cross-Government collective responsibility for government communications, thereby avoiding any possible departmental bias. A Communications Delivery Board has been established, which will oversee an annual planning cycle covering all planned direct communications, enabling identification and elimination of wasteful spend.

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research into *(a)* the Central Office of Information and *(b)* the Government's direct communication strategy his Department has commissioned since March 2011; and what organisations his Department consulted in producing the Government's response to the Tee review. [75569]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not commissioned any paid for research into COI or the Government's direct communications strategy since March 2011.

The Government's response to the Tee review drew objectively on the available evidence and material from the original review as well as additional fresh evidence and analysis, and extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders. The review had input from the COI Board, and was overseen by Sir Gus O'Donnell and the COI accounting officer Ian Watmore.

Charity Commission: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Charity Commission using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08 , (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73490]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 24 October 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what the (a) date of purchase, (b) amount, (c) supplier and (d) level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Charity Commission using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73490]

The Charity Commission has policies in place for the use of Government Procurement Cards (GPCs) and actively monitors compliance with these procedures.

We hold detailed transaction information showing the date, amount and supplier for December 2009 onwards. Prior to this, the information was not available electronically and it would require significant manual intervention to collate the data in the format requested from the individual paper records.

The total amount spent on GPC transactions during the period requested is as follows:

	£
2007-08	670,924.31
2008-09	971,499.02
2009-10	858,771.37

There were no level three transactions during this period. Details of transactions made using a GPC for which data is available (December 2009 onwards) have been placed in the Library.

I hope this information is helpful.

Cybercrime

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate he has made of the number of occasions on which Government computers have been the target of *(a)* unsuccessful and *(b)* successful cyber attacks; and if he will make a statement; [75774]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on cyber security with suppliers of cyber services; and if he will make a statement. [75775]

Mr Maude: This Government have recognised the real and increasing risk to the UK's national security from cyber attack. The National Security Council has assessed cyber security as a Tier 1 threat in the National Security Strategy published on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 48WS.

The Government take the issue of cyber security very seriously and has allocated £650 million over four years for a new National Cyber Security Programme. These funds are allocated to Departments and agencies across Whitehall to enhance the UK's capability to protect itself in cyberspace.

All Ministers disclose details of meetings with external representatives and this information is published on a quarterly basis on the Cabinet Office website. Meetings for April-June period will be published on the website shortly.

It would not be in the interests of national security to disclose the number of attacks on Government systems and whether or not those attacks were successful as this could undermine the integrity of those systems and thereby expose them to further threats.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76247]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office Ministers remain committed to participating in the One Day Challenge. Details of related activities will be disclosed by the end of the year.

IRG Ltd

Mr Hain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Report by the Cabinet Secretary on allegations against the former Secretary of State for Defence, which organisation IRG Ltd refers to. [76772]

Mr Maude: I understand that IRG Ltd refers to the Iraq Research Group Ltd.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many special advisers were employed by each central Government Department in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [75460]

Mr Maude: The Government publish, on a quarterly basis, details of special advisers and their cost. The most recent information was published on 19 July 2011 and is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Numbers and cost of special advisers under the previous administration were published on an annual basis and are also available in the Library of the House.

The most recent information published on 19 July 2011 shows a total of 74 special advisers in post. The paybill for the period 13 May 2010—31 March 2011 was £4.5 million. This compares to 78 special advisers in post at the end of March 2010 with a cost of £6.8 million for the year 2009-10.

Private Rented Housing: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people live in privately-rented accommodation in Liverpool; and what proportion of such people are *(a)* in full-time work, *(b)* unemployed, *(c)* aged 16 to 34 years, *(d)* ethnic minorities, *(e)* single people and *(f)* living in a household of more than three people. [76747]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people living in privately-rented accommodation in Liverpool, and what proportion of these people are (a) in full-time work, (b) unemployed, (c) aged 16 to 34 years, (d) ethnic minorities, (e) single people, and (f) living in households with more than 3 people. (76747).

The requested estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) person and household datasets. The latest available data are for January to December 2010. The estimates are provided in the table. These estimates are for all people aged 16 and over living in privately-rented accommodation in Liverpool, and therefore exclude children aged under 16. The estimate for 'ethnic minorities' include those who classified themselves as mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese, or other. The estimate for 'single people' refers to those living in one-person households.

	Number/percentage
Number of people[1] living in privately-rented accommodation in Liverpool:	
Privately-rented accommodation (thousand)	69
Of the people aged 16 and above living in privately-rented accommodation in Liverpool:	
In full-time employment (percentage)	35.0
Unemployed[2] (percentage)	12.9
Aged 16 to 34 (percentage)	67.4
In ethnic minorities[3] (percentage)	13.5
Single people[4] (percentage)	23.9
Living in households with more than three people[5] (percentage)	17.5

[1] People aged 16 and above, excluding children aged under 16.

[2] Note that unemployed proportion is not the same as unemployment rate, as the unemployment rate does not include inactive people or people under 16 in the denominator in its calculation.

[3] Ethnic minorities include those who classified themselves as mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese or other.

[4] 'Single people' are those living in one-person households.

[5] Households where everyone is aged 16 and above.

Source:
APS person and household datasets.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Leader of the House what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* the Deputy Leader of the House have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76233]

Sir George Young: The Deputy Leader of the House, my hon. Friend the Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr Heath), and I attend regular events in support of charities and voluntary organisations in our roles as constituency Members of Parliament. We are also committed to participating in the One Day Challenge and will disclose details of related activities in due course.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Absent Voting

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the deadline by which applications for postal votes must be made. [76471]

Mr Harper: The Political and Constitutional Reform (PCR) Committee is scrutinising draft Government legislation which would extend the timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 working days. In the context of this proposal, I wrote to the Committee suggesting that it would be helpful to welcome views as part of the pre-legislative scrutiny process on whether the existing deadline for postal vote applications (which is currently 11 days before polling day) should be moved further in advance of the date of the poll. The Government will consider any recommendations made by the PCR Committee carefully, although we would be reluctant to erode the flexibility for electors which the current deadline offers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations (i) he and (ii) his senior officials have spoken in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76790]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since May 2010 to date, I have spoken at 20 events which have been organised by charities, civil society groups and businesses. Senior officials in my private office have not spoken at any such events. Details of my speaking events are as follows:

2010

June: one (charity)

November: two (civil society groups)

2011

January: one (civil society group)

February: one (business)

March: one (business)

May: three (charities), one (civil society group) and two (businesses)

June: one (civil society group)

July: one (charity)

August: one (civil society group)

October: three (businesses) and two (charities).

Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what volunteering he undertook as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76243]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I, along with my ministerial colleagues, have pledged to undertake the One Day Challenge to give time to help others. I will undertake this challenge early in the new year.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consultation his Department has undertaken with electoral registration officers on the implementation of individual voter registration. [76332]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office has consulted widely on its proposals for individual electoral registration. All chief executives of local authorities with responsibility for electoral registration and their electoral administrators were informed when the consultation was published. Direct consultation with electoral registration officers has continued through the SOLACE Elections Panel. We have also consulted very extensively with electoral administrators across Great Britain throughout the consultation period, with a series of briefing events and presentations to regional branch meetings of the Association of Electoral Administrators.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from electoral registration officers on the *(a)* time and *(b)* resources required to implement the legislative proposals on changes to electoral administration. [76333]

Mr Harper: No direct representations have been received from electoral registration officers on the time and resources which will be required to implement the draft electoral administration provisions which were published for pre-legislative scrutiny alongside the draft individual electoral registration provisions. However, we have established and will continue to maintain dialogue with the Electoral Commission and Association of Electoral Administrators on the best way to implement our proposals.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in funding for local government on the ability of electoral registration departments to implement individual voter registration. [76334]

Mr Harper: The Government are working with electoral registration officers and with electoral administrators to ensure that they have the capacity to implement individual electoral registration properly. The Government are committed to funding the move to individual electoral registration centrally. The White Paper published on the 30 June 2011 estimated the costs of this move as £108 million. This is being funded as part of the Cabinet Office's spending review settlement.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much additional funding he estimates will be required for the introduction of individual voter registration. [76345]

Mr Harper: The Individual Electoral Registration White Paper published on the 30 June 2011 estimated the costs of the move to individual registration as £108 million. This is being funded as part of the Cabinet Office's spending review settlement.

We have dropped the previous Government's plans for a voluntary phase leading up to the introduction of individual electoral registration, saving £74 million.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the Electoral Commission's recommendations in respect of individual electoral registration; and if he will make a statement. [76411]

Mr Harper: The Government's consultation on the Individual Electoral Registration White Paper closed on 14 October 2011. The Electoral Commission provided a detailed response to the Government's proposals on 14 October. The Government will set out their response to the consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny in due course, once these have been given proper consideration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to make the draft secondary legislation on individual voter registration available while any proposals for changes to relevant primary legislation are considered by Parliament. [76501]

Mr Harper: The Government will set out their intentions for the legislation to implement the move to individual electoral registration when they respond to the consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether lessons learnt from the data-sharing pilots for electoral registration will be taken into account in his plans for individual voter registration. [76571]

Mr Harper: The lessons learnt from the pilots and the evaluation of them by the Electoral Commission, the Cabinet Office and the participating local authorities will all be taken into account.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish an implementation plan for individual voter registration; and whether this will take place at the same time as the introduction of legislation on individual voter registration. [76572]

Mr Harper: The Government will set out their intentions for the implementation of individual electoral registration when they respond to the consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* plans and *(b)* funding is in place to disseminate public information on the implementation of individual voter registration (i) locally and (ii) nationally. [76573]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission has a statutory responsibility to promote public awareness of electoral systems. As part of this, the Commission runs public awareness campaigns to educate electors on how to register to vote. We are working with the Commission on the plans for public awareness activity to inform the public of the move to Individual Electoral Registration. The funding for this has not yet been finalised.

The Government will strongly encourage everyone to register to vote under the new system.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made in developing well-designed and accessible electoral registration forms; and whether such forms will be developed and tested with the input from *(a)* electoral administrators and *(b)* software and print suppliers. [76574]

Mr Harper: The design requirements for electoral registration forms are set out in the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001, and Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and equivalent provisions for Scotland.

Under Government proposals for individual electoral registration published for consultation in June, the Electoral Commission will determine the forms to be used for electoral registration. Once we have considered the responses to the consultation we are committed to working with the Electoral Commission and a range of interested parties, including electoral administrators and software suppliers to test the accessibility of registration forms.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to ensure that sufficient training for *(a)* electoral registration officers and *(b)* electoral administrators is in place before the introduction of individual voter registration; and if he will set out a timeline for the implementation of such training. [76575]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office will set out its plans in light of the response to the consultation on the Government's proposals for individual electoral registration published in June.

Lobbying

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he proposes to publish his plans for a statutory register of lobbyists. [76059]

Mr Cox: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish his proposals to establish a statutory register of lobbying activity. [76349]

Mr Harper: The coalition agreement made clear that we will regulate lobbying through introducing a statutory register of lobbyists and ensuring greater transparency.

We remain committed to creating a statutory register of lobbyists and will publish a consultation paper next month.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Agriculture: Education

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students studied at agricultural colleges in the academic year 2010-11; and how many such students went on to a career in the agricultural sector. [75642]

Mr Hayes: There were 55,020 Government-funded learners participating in further education at agriculture and horticulture colleges in England for 2009/10, the latest academic year for which final data are available. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Further education covers participation in learner responsive, apprenticeships, workplace learning, adult safeguarded learning and university for industry provision.

Information is not available on the number of these learners who went on to a career in the agricultural sector.

Apprentices

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeship vacancies there were and *(b)* people were seeking an apprenticeship on (i) 1 September and (ii) 1 October 2011. [75448]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) apprenticeship vacancies online system shows that there were 7,950 live apprenticeship vacancies on 2 September 2011[1], and 6,190 live apprenticeship vacancies on 1 October 2011.

The apprenticeships vacancies system does not provide a measure of the number of people seeking an apprenticeship at any given time. In the first two months (August and September) of the 2011-12 academic year 88,730 candidates activated an account on the system, enabling them to make applications for advertised vacancies. This total does not include individuals who activated accounts in previous quarters but are still seeking an apprenticeship.

A vacancy can be advertised on both the apprenticeship vacancy online system and also via an employer's own website.

It is not possible to record those applications which have gone directly to the employer, therefore the applications only relate to the vacancies advertised through the apprenticeship vacancies online system.

Apprenticeship vacancy online reports are updated on a monthly basis and published by the Data Service on the fourth day of each calendar month at the following link:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship_vacancy_reports/

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[1] Vacancy figures were not available for 1 September so the next possible date was used.

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any Ministers plan to participate in the UK Trade and Investment defence and security sector trade mission to Saudi Arabia in November 2011; which companies will be taking part; and what the cost to the public purse of the mission will be. [76150]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) plans to support the overseas trade mission to Saudi Arabia in November which is being arranged by the UK Aerospace, Defence and Security Trade Association (A|D|S). A number of UK defence and security companies have expressed their interest in attending to A|D|S. No involvement of a UK Government Minister is currently planned. The costs of UKTI DSO assistance for the event are expected to be offset by income from industry.

Business: Complaints

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had discussions on customer complaints with representatives of banks and other big businesses; and if he will make a statement. [76476]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers and officials have meetings with a variety of organisations in the public and private sectors. When we receive complaints from customers, these are passed to the relevant agency where appropriate, and are fed into the wider process of policy development and delivery.

Customers who are unable to resolve their individual complaints with their bank or other business concerned are advised to contact: in the case of banks, the Money Advice Service or Financial Ombudsman Service; or in the case of other businesses, Consumer Direct who may refer complaints to other sector ombudsmen for potential redress.

Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward proposals to provide design the same legal protection as copyright. [73524]

Mr Davey: The Government broadly accepted the recommendations of the Hargreaves review of intellectual property and growth, in particular, that policy should be evidence based. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has launched a 'call for Evidence' on design intellectual property (IP), which, together with an online survey, will help us identify changes to the designs IP framework that users of the system think are now needed.

Data Protection

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any *(a)* personnel and *(b)* organisations who are not employees of his Department are provided with a copy of (i) his own and (ii) other Ministers' diary; and if he will make a statement. [76366]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Most Business Innovation and Skills Ministers ask their offices to send copies of their diaries to their partners, parliamentary and constituency offices where appropriate, and in one case, their book-keeper but to no-one else who is not an employee of the Department.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75699]

Mr Prisk: All my meetings are now published quarterly on the Department's website which you can access using the following hyperlink:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Infrastructure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking in respect of its report, Infrastructure supply chains: barriers and opportunities. [75805]

Mr Prisk: There are a number of areas where my Department is addressing issues raised in the Infrastructure supply chains report, in particular:

by co-funding and supporting the Government Chief Construction Adviser and the Government Construction Strategy on public procurement which, among other things, will provide improved transparency and predictability of work load;

on investment issues through the Green Investment Bank which will begin investing in green infrastructure in 2012 and by supporting a number of infrastructure supply chain projects in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund;

on ensuring ports are ready to respond to opportunities in offshore wind by working with Department for Transport and Department for Energy and Climate Change to attract further investment into port infrastructure;

on difficulties in getting technological innovations ready for market stage by co-funding with six industrial members (BP, Caterpillar, EDF Energy, E.ON, Rolls-Royce and Shell) the Energy Technologies Institute who focus on delivering large scale low carbon energy technology demonstration projects; and

on addressing issues of simplification, reducing bureaucracy and increasing flexibility around SME's experience of the apprenticeship programme where BIS have ensured the Skills Growth Review has focused on the 'end to end' engagement of SMEs in apprenticeships.

The report's findings have also been made available as evidence to inform the Government's priorities for the Infrastructure Growth Review and the process to update the National Infrastructure Plan, both of which are led by Infrastructure UK.

Secondment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department at *(a)* director general and *(b)* director level have undertaken secondments to industry in the last 18 months. [75055]

Mr Davey: BIS was created in June 2009 following the merger of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. In July 2011 BIS completed the final phase of a major departmental restructuring.

BIS has formal and informal programmes which foster links with industry. For example staff working on Enterprise spend a week in a small business each year. In addition BIS has recently launched an outreach programme where staff spend at least one to two days with other organisations to learn about how they operate and the challenges they face. This includes visits to industry. Three director generals and six directors have undertaken recent visits and 150 others staff members have undertaken visits or plans to do so.

UK Trade and Investment, a joint organisation of BIS and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), works very closely with business both in the UK and overseas. The new chief executive spent several weeks, before taking up post, meeting many companies, large and small. Directors in UKTI meet and work alongside both UK and overseas companies very regularly. UKTI staff are able to spend time—the usual is up to a week—with a company.

In the last 18 months no director generals or directors have undertaken lengthy formal secondments to industry.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75116]

Mr Davey: Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier one threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber-Security Programme, working across Departments, with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber security capability.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF); these standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Education: Prisons

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many prisoners are enrolled on Open University courses. [75556]

Mr Hayes: Data from the Open University indicate that, at 17 October 2011, 1,273 offenders held in prisons in England were enrolled on a course with the Open University.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether his Department undertook an impact assessment on the likely effects on *(a)* employment and *(b)* the economy of a slow-down in orders for tranche 3A of Eurofighter; and when any such assessment was made; [76092]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department discussed a slow-down in orders for tranche 3A of Eurofighter with (i) representatives of BAE systems and (ii) representatives of staff at BAE systems; and when any such discussions took place. [76096]

Mr Prisk: The decision to slow down orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter Typhoon was taken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as it falls within MOD's delegated authority and was not subject to an impact assessment by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Ministers and officials from BIS did not discuss the slow down in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter with representatives of BAE Systems or representatives of staff at BAE Systems. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), met the BAE Systems Brough Trade Union Parliamentary Committee on 30 June. The discussions covered a number of issues but not the slow down in orders for Tranche 3A.

Exports: Brazil

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of potential future trends in UK exports to Brazil in *(a)* the oil and gas sector, *(b)* biotechnology, *(c)* pharmaceuticals, *(d)* creative industries, *(e)* renewables industries, *(f)* automotives and *(g)* chemicals sectors; and if he will make a statement. [76077]

Mr Prisk: This year the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Government's target is to double UK exports to Brazil by 2015. UK exports in goods and services over the four year period 2007-10 increased by 91%. We assess there is significant potential for sustainable growth in the sectors listed, and opportunities for UK companies to benefit from that growth. These sectors have all been identified as priorities for UK companies.

Green Deal

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many discussions officials in his Department have had with small businesses interested in becoming Green Deal providers since 14 September 2011. [76767]

Mr Prisk: Officials in the Department meet with businesses on a regular basis about a wide range of issues. The Government's Chief Construction Adviser and officials have met with a number of bodies representing the interests of small businesses in construction since 14 September 2011. These include the National Specialist Contractors Council, the Federation of Master Builders, the National Federation of Builders, the National Insulation Association, the Insulated Render and Cladding Association, the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes and Trustmark. The Green Deal formed at least part of the discussions in these meetings. The Chief Construction Adviser also chairs the Green Deal Capacity and Innovation Forum, which is one of the Green Deal Government/ Industry stakeholder fora.

Higher Education Funding Council

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* postgraduate research masters, *(b)* postgraduate taught masters and *(c)* PhDs the Higher Education Funding Council funded in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how many it will fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [74011]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides funding to higher education institutions (HEIs) in England. This funding meets some of the costs incurred by HEIs of teaching students on taught postgraduate courses and of supervising students in the first three years of a postgraduate research degree programme. The funding is allocated to institutions by reference to the numbers of eligible home and EU students enrolled at those institutions and identified in the most recent statistical returns. Allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 were based on the following data:

Full-time equivalent students	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
On taught postgraduate programmes	80,908	81,518

Full-time equivalent students	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
On research degree programmes, which includes both research masters and PhD students	39,654	42,686

HEFCE protected provision for research degree programme supervision costs in research allocations for 2011-12 at £205 million p.a., maintaining it at same cash levels as 2010-11. HEFCE allocation in relation to taught postgraduate provision was £117.6 million in 2010-11, and £112 million in 2011-12.

Allocations are calculated by reference to actual student number data from previous years, rather than projections of student numbers. Data on future student numbers are not available.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the higher education cohort entered higher education using vocational qualifications in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [74696]

Mr Willetts: Information on the highest qualification held on entry to higher education is shown in the table, for young (aged under 21 on entry) English-domiciled undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions, in the academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10. However, these qualifications may not necessarily be the ones on which successful admission to the institution was based; a student whose highest qualification on entry is not vocational may additionally hold a vocational qualification at a lower level, and vice versa. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Young (aged under 21 on entry) English-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] by highest qualification on entry UK Higher education institutions. Academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10

Highest qualification on entry	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) level 5	60	40	35
National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 5	25	20	25
Higher National Diploma/Certificate (including BTEC equivalents)	4,230	4,300	3,905
GNVQ level 4	100	85	40
NVQ level 4	65	80	95
GNVQ level 3	245	600	435
NVQ/level 3	380	915	1,390
Ordinary National Diploma/Certificate (including BTEC equivalents)	14,795	16,485	20,840
NVQ level 2	140	290	440
Advanced Modern Apprenticeships	25	20	20
Total vocational only	20,060	22,835	27,225
Higher degree of UK institution	135	65	55
Postgraduate diploma or certificate, excluding PGCE	50	95	95
Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) with QTS/GTC Registration	35	30	15
PGCE without QTS/GTC Registration	10	15	10
Postgraduate equivalent qualification	10	50	25
Undergraduate qualifications with QTS	60	75	40
First degree of UK institution	460	445	330
Graduate of European Union institution	45	30	30
Graduate of other overseas institution	75	50	60
Graduate equivalent qualification	35	20	30
Open University credit	40	50	100
Other credits from UK institution	655	700	730
Certificate or diploma of education	1,085	1,275	1,105
Diploma in Higher Education (HE)	500	670	835
Professional qualifications	195	175	290
Foundation course at HE level	930	935	815

Young (aged under 21 on entry) English-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] by highest qualification on entry UK Higher education institutions. Academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10

Highest qualification on entry	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Other HE qualification of less than degree standard	470	500	655
Foundation Degree	1,120	1,765	2,050
A-level equivalent qualification	15,510	22,635	28,010
Any combinations of GCE A-level GNVQ or NVQ	197,795	205,040	206,215
Foundation course at further education level	2,010	1,370	1,510
Access course—Quality Assurance Agency recognised (QAA)	1,035	1,220	1,310
Access course (not QAA recognised)	410	485	455
Baccalaureate	1,855	2,055	2,505
GCSE/O-level qualifications only	7,240	8,340	8,235
Other non-advanced qualification	1,245	1,445	975
Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)	1,665	2,060	2,295
Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning	20	30	50
Other non-UK qualification, level not known	2,080	1,795	1,370
Student has no formal qualification	910	1,285	1,070
Total other	237,675	254,685	261,270
Total with known highest qualification on entry	257,735	277,520	288,500
Percentage vocational only	7.8	8.2	9.4

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis.
2. Figures in this table are rounded up or down to the nearest live, so components may not sum to totals.
3. Percentages are based on unrounded figures are given to one decimal place.

Key:

BTEC: Business and Technician Education Council
QTS: Qualified Teacher Status
GTC: General Teaching Council
GCE: General Certificate of Education
GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Job Creation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what multiplier factor his Department recommends using on direct job numbers to estimate the number of jobs being created in the supply chain. [76540]

Mr Prisk: There is no single recommended multiplier factor used by the Department. This is because in analysing the impact of an intervention on the number of supply chain jobs created or safeguarded, proper account needs to be taken of deadweight, displacement, substitution and leakage effects in accordance with UK Government appraisal guidance "The Green Book". The multiplier factor used will also reflect the sectoral and geographical scope of the intervention and whether we are considering the short or long-term effects of Government action.

Literacy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to increase adult literacy. [75843]

Mr Hayes: The Government are continuing to fund literacy courses for adults who lack basic literacy skills, so that that they can get the skills they need to function in society, progress onto further training and employment, and to operate more productively in work.

Following the publication of "Skills for Sustainable Growth", the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is undertaking a review of literacy and numeracy provision for adults in order to improve economic and personal returns through making this provision more effective.

Literacy: Prisoners

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of rates of illiteracy in prison. [75555]

Mr Hayes: Level 1 literacy skills may be regarded as the threshold level needed for life and work, though opinion differs on the definitive character of literacy. Individual level data is not collected centrally that would allow analysis of prisoners' prior achievement.

However, the Skills Funding Agency collects data on the learning aims for which prisoners enrol. Data provided by the Skills Funding Agency from individual learner records (ILR) for the academic year 2009/10 show that prisoners enrolled for 28,400 qualifications, courses and learning events with a literacy aim at Level 1 or below. These literacy aims were part of a total of 341,221 learning aims for which prisoners enrolled across public sector prisons and young offenders' institutions in England.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: West Midlands

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding has been made available from the public purse to the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership since it was created. [76655]

Mr Prisk: Local Enterprise Partnerships can apply to Government funding to support their development through the Department's Capacity and Start-up Funds. They can also apply for funding to support specific programmes or projects, for example, the Regional Growth Fund or through the Technology Strategy Board. Partnerships can also access European funding streams or may receive financial support from local authorities.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of effects on jobs in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency of the creation of the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. [76656]

Mr Prisk: Since the creation of the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership no assessment has been made of the partnership's effect on jobs in the Ladywood constituency of Birmingham. It is for local enterprise partnerships to both decide their priorities and assess the effectiveness of their interventions.

Pancreatic Cancer: Research

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of *(a)* medical and *(b)* cancer research funding was allocated to pancreatic cancer research in the latest period for which figures are available. [76778]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) does not hold details of expenditure on research directly relating to pancreatic cancer. It would not be possible to undertake the necessary analysis in the time available.

In 2010 the MRC spent £107.9 million on cancer and research relevant to cancer. This includes a broad portfolio of both site-specific and general cancer research, some of which will be relevant to pancreatic cancer. It is often the case that research which has been classified as being undertaken in one site may also have implications in another such as pancreatic cancer.

Current MRC investments in the area include funding for the Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology, a joint strategic investment between MRC, Cancer Research UK and Oxford university aimed at yielding new advances in radiation treatment of patients with cancer, including studies specifically on pancreatic cancer. The MRC's Cancer Cell Unit is also carrying out work in the area of pancreatic cancer.

The MRC provides funding for research through a range of grants and personal awards to scientists in universities, medical schools and other research institutes and welcomes investigator-initiated research proposals in all areas of research. The MRC's primary considerations in funding decisions are research excellence and importance to health; however, high quality proposals in areas of particular strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds.

Further details on research programmes that have received funding from the MRC can be found at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

The Department of Health spent £91 million on cancer research in 2009-10. Total expenditure on pancreatic cancer research cannot be disaggregated from this figure. The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes high quality funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including pancreatic cancer.

In August 2011, the Government announced £800 million investment over five years in a series of NIHR biomedical research centres and units, including £61.5 million funding for the Royal Marsden/Institute of Cancer Research Biomedical Research Centre.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that the assets and intellectual property of regional development agencies are not inappropriately gifted or transferred to *(a)* former employees of the agencies in the private or third sector and *(b)* private or third sector organisations. [76112]

Mr Prisk: Regional development agency (RDA) assets are being disposed of in accordance with the terms of "Managing Public Money" and the RDA "Accountability and Financial Control Framework".

Royal Academy of Engineering: Publications

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking in response to the report, Business motivations for engaging the public in science and engineering by the Royal Academy of Engineering. [75804]

Mr Willetts: Public engagement with science and engineering is vital if the UK is to realise the full potential of its significant investments in science and research. We must inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We must also ensure that members of the public have confidence in research being carried out and that researchers are able to listen and respond to the aspirations and concerns the public have. BIS and the Royal Academy of Engineering jointly commissioned the Business motivations for engaging the public in science and engineering report. As the report makes clear, businesses are already an important contributor to the spectrum of science and engineering engagement activities, particularly when it comes to inspiring the next generation. Together with businesses themselves, BIS will consider over the coming months where businesses could add value through involvement in other activities.

Science: Higher Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides additional funding to reflect the additional capital cost associated with science, technology, engineering and maths courses. [75886]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with Teaching and Learning Capital Investment Funding. HEFCE are responsible for making decisions about how this funding is managed. They apply formulae which recognise the costs of different courses by price group weightings and include some targeted allocations.

This calculation reflects the additional costs of some science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) courses.

HEFCE also provides research capital to HEIs, part of which includes weighting for high cost science based disciplines.

The formulae used for calculating distribution of the Capital Investment Fund are contained in the HEFCE funding guide: 2011/08 Capital Investment Fund 2: Capital allocations for learning and teaching 2012-13; capital allocations for research 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. [75887]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Department funds a number of programmes which encourage all young people to understand the excitement and importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in their lives, and to encourage school pupils to study these disciplines at university, and to make appropriate choices at each stage in their educational careers. These programmes include STEMNET and its 27,000 strong cohort of STEM ambassadors, the Big Bang Fair, the National Science and Engineering Competition and National Science and Engineering Week. In addition, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills partners, including the National Academies and the Research Councils, deliver a range of educational outreach activities directly aimed at school-aged students.

STEM generally—and those STEM subjects with are strategically important and vulnerable subjects (SIVs) in particular—remain a priority for university teaching grant. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), in freeing up student number controls, is taking steps to ensure that provision of, and support for, subjects classified as (SIVs) is not disadvantaged.

The Higher Education white paper also outlined a strategy for improving the information published by universities. Universities have been asked to do more to explain the benefits of studying different subjects so that potential students can make informed choices about what to study. STEM skills are vital to businesses, health and research, and we want to ensure that students are more aware of the value of undertaking these courses at university.

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which trade missions the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation plans to undertake up to the end of 2012; [76584]

(2) which military and security exhibitions staff of the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) will be attending up to 30 June 2012; and whether UKTI DSO will be exhibiting in each case. [76585]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Overseas trade missions in support of UK defence and security exports planned by UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) to the end of financial year 2011/12 are listed in the following table:

Month and year	*Country*
October 2011	Brazil
October 2011	Canada
October 2011	Japan
October 2011	Mexico
November 2011	Saudi Arabia
November 2011	Serbia
December 2011	Spain
February 2012	Belgium
February 2012	Brazil
February 2012	Colombia
February 2012	India
February 2012	Kazakhstan
February 2012	Libya
February 2012	Mexico
February 2012	Nigeria
February 2012	Turkey
March 2012	Italy
March 2012	Qatar
March 2012	Saudi Arabia
March 2012	USA
March 2012	Vietnam

Exhibitions to the end of financial year 2011/12 at which UKTI DSO plans to have a stand are shown in the following table. Members of UKTI DSO may attend other exhibitions at short notice.

Month and year	*Country*	*Exhibition*
November 2011	Bulgaria	PSE
November 2011	Dubai	Dubai Airshow
November 2011	Saudi Arabia	IFSEC
December 2011	Malaysia	LIMA
December 2011	India	IFSEC
December 2011	Kuwait	GDA Kuwait
January 2012	UAE (Dubai)	Intersec
January 2012	UK	Security and Policing
February 2012	Singapore	Singapore Air Show
February 2012	Australia	Pacific Australia
March 2012	Chile	FIDAE
March 2012	Qatar	DIMDEX
March-April 2012	India	DEFEXPO

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 26 October 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 502W, on deportation: offenders, what the *(a)* nationality and *(b)* offence committed is of foreign nationals subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements whose location is unknown. [75562]

Damian Green: The two foreign national prisoners subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements whom the UK Border Agency is considering for deportation where their location is unknown are a Polish national convicted of robbery and a national of Yemen convicted of false imprisonment.

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether domestic workers who entered the UK on visit visas are covered by UK employment legislation. [75673]

Damian Green: In general, overseas domestic workers are entitled to the same key employment rights as all other workers in the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 September 2011 regarding Mr Lawson Odere. [76705]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Member's letter was sent on 25 October 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department attended the recent Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. [76650]

Alistair Burt: My noble Friend, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, attended the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition in his capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment. No other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers attended the exhibition. A number of FCO officials whose work is relevant to the defence and security industry were also in attendance.

Burma: Deaths

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to press the Burmese authorities to provide an explanation for the deaths of Saw Kaw Lar and Saw San Pe on 21 and 22 August 2011. [76431]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have consulted local contacts and media archives in Rangoon but have been unable to find any information about the death of any individuals by the name of Saw Kaw Lar or Saw San Pe on 21 and 22 August 2011. I would welcome further information to enable our embassy in Burma to follow up on these cases.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press for any UN General Assembly resolution on Burma to include a recommendation to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations in that country. [76732]

Mr Jeremy Browne: It is essential that mechanisms be found that deliver a credible response to allegations of human rights abuses in Burma, both past and present. The Government have therefore made clear its support for the UN Special Rapporteur's recommendation for the UN to consider establishing a Commission of Inquiry into human rights abuses in Burma as a means to achieving this goal.

Over recent months there have been some indications that the regime in Burma is willing to embark upon meaningful and inclusive political reform, including through investigation of human rights abuses. With this in mind, we are working in close coordination with international partners to ensure the widest possible support in the UN General Assembly for a strong resolution on the human rights situation in Burma, which reflects our concerns and urges the Burmese authorities to address accountability for human rights abuses.

Colombia: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to raise human rights with the President of Colombia during his visit to the UK. [76760]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Human rights remain an integral part of our relationship with Colombia and we regularly raise human rights with senior members of the Colombian Government.

Our discussions with President Santos during his visit will cover a range of issues, including human rights, as well as trade, prosperity, international co-operation, climate change, science and innovation and counter-narcotics.

Colombia: Peace Negotiations

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will offer support to the Government of Colombia to help achieve a peace process in that country. [76099]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We support all efforts to reach peace in Colombia. We already work in a number of areas to help build conditions for peace, for example by supporting the new Land and Victims Law and by helping Colombia tackle drug trafficking. Any direct support for a formal peace process would have to be initiated by a formal request from the Colombian Government.

European Union: Powers

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which powers have been repatriated from the EU since May 2010; and what powers he expects to repatriate by 2015. [76412]

Mr Lidington: Competence and power are transferred or repatriated through treaty change. Through the EU Act 2011 this coalition Government have ensured that neither they nor future governments can agree to a proposal for treaty change that transfers competence or power from the UK to the EU without the consent of the British people in a referendum and we have made a firm political commitment to rule out any transfers of competence or power from the UK to the EU during the life of this Parliament. We are policing the existing limits of competence and, as set out in the coalition agreement, we will examine the balance of the EU's existing competences.

Libya: Human Rights

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the National Transitional Council of Libya to meet its international obligations in respect of human rights; and if he will make a statement. [76644]

Alistair Burt: During his recent visit to Libya, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised concerns about human rights abuses committed by Free Libya Forces, including the recent reporting by Amnesty International on the treatment of detainees, and made clear that the UK expected the National Transitional Council (NTC) to turn its commitment to respect human rights into urgent action. He was assured by the Chairman of the NTC that they were taking action to meet Libya's international obligations in respect of human rights and had already begun investigations into these reports.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs announced UK support for the NTC on policing and in support of their building of a vibrant civil society. He made it clear that the UK stood ready to respond to additional requests from the Libya authorities. The UK is funding a project to provide training for lawyers and justice officials in order to improve understanding and adherence to international human rights standards. We will continue to work closely with the NTC as well as our EU and UN counterparts to determine what further specific bilateral support the UK can provide.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73989]

Mr Paterson: I have received a total of nine letters requesting funding since 1 June 2010. One was received in January this year; one in April; five in September and two this month.

EDUCATION

Children's Centres

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department plans to allocate to children's centres in Ashfield constituency in each of the next four years. [73026]

Sarah Teather: From April 2011, funding for Children's Centres is included within the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Nottinghamshire's EIG allocation for 2011-12 and the indicative allocation for 2012-13 are shown in the following table. Funding beyond March 2013 is subject to future spending reviews.

The EIG is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It is up to local authorities to judge how best to use this funding in consultation with local communities, taking account of local need, their statutory duties and evidence of what is most effective.

Nottinghamshire county council

	£
2011-12	29,140,205
2012-13	30,305,448
Total	59,445,653

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76242]

Sarah Teather: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and Department for Education Ministers participate in a range of volunteering activities.

Public Sector Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74774]

Sarah Teather: The Open Public Services White Paper, published in July 2011, states that we are giving public sector workers who want to form mutuals or co-operatives to deliver public services a right to provide. This will enable public sector workers who want to form new employee-owned mutual companies to take over the running of services. We are working closely with Cabinet Office to help facilitate this in children's services where the conditions are right, and have already made some initial good progress. As part of the Cabinet Office's mutuals pathfinder programme, a small number of local authorities are currently working with their employees in children's services to explore new models of delivery. A grant with 4Children is exploring a range of children's centre delivery models to encourage increased commissioning out of children's centres services by local authorities. This will include exploring opportunities for public sector workers to take over the running of services.

We are also testing employee-owned delivery arrangements through our social work practices (SWPs) pilots. The SWP pilots, announced in December 2008, have seen the creation of independent, social worker-led organisations to deliver services for children and young people in care, including social workers moving out of public sector employment to form their own employee-owned social enterprise. These initiatives will help us to understand, by learning from the front line, what type of support and structures will best enable the development of employee-led mutuals on an ongoing basis.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism his Department uses to assess the quality of careers guidance in schools. [73925]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* We must retain a focus on outcomes that show the extent to which young people are achieving and progressing to higher levels of education or training, or into employment, rather than on specific inputs such as the amount or type of careers guidance. The data on progression provided by the destinations measure we plan to publish will provide clear and comparable information on the success of schools in helping their pupils to progress onto a positive post-16 destination.

Ofsted inspections will consider the extent to which pupils have a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through school and onto the next stage of their education, training or employment. The Government have also accepted the recommendation of the Careers Profession Task Force to ask Ofsted to carry out a thematic review of careers guidance as a means of identifying excellent provision and establishing a baseline for future policy development. We are considering the most appropriate timing for such a review.

Sign Language

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Government plans to introduce family sign language classes throughout England. [76213]

Sarah Teather: We have no current plans to introduce such classes throughout England. Support services for children with a hearing impairment, and their families, are determined by local authorities in response to local needs and in line with their statutory duties.

The Department for Education funded a pilot of a project called I-Sign, which included the development of family sign language classes, up until March 2011.

We have received the final evaluation of the pilot and will meet with the organisations involved in November 2011 to discuss how to use the learning from the project.

Special Educational Needs

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has to enable children with *(a)* autism and *(b)* other special educational needs to participate in both mainstream and specialist provision during their time at school; [75681]

(2) what plans he has to encourage mainstream and special schools to work together to facilitate dual placements for children with *(a)* autism and *(b)* other special educational needs. [75682]

Sarah Teather: Some 15,500 children with special educational needs (SEN), including children with autistic spectrum disorders, are already benefiting from both mainstream and specialist provision through being placed in mainstream schools with specially resourced provision or in specialist units attached to mainstream schools. We are giving special schools, including special schools for children with autism, the opportunity to become Academies and play a leading role in transforming the educational experiences of children with SEN by exploring innovative arrangements working with other schools, including mainstream schools. These could include giving children the opportunity to participate in learning and activities alongside their mainstream peers. We also encourage other special schools, local authority maintained and independent, to work with their mainstream colleagues, sharing their expertise and helping to give their pupils mainstream experiences.

Through SEN statements, children can already benefit from dual placements in special and mainstream schools. Decisions in individual cases are taken by local authorities in discussion with parents and the schools concerned. The greater diversity of SEN provision the Government are encouraging will open up greater opportunities for children to benefit from dual placements.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much he expects to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74838]

Sarah Teather: Civil society organisations play, and will continue to play, a significant role in developing and delivering services for children, young people and families. The sector receives money from DfE through a number of routes, including funding through arms length bodies, through the money we give to local authorities and from services commissioned from schools.

Information about DfE's direct spend with civil society organisations, for the financial year 2010-11 and between April 2011 and 30 September 2011 has been placed in the House Libraries.

We do not have comprehensive information on funding to organisations in future years as in many areas decisions have yet to be taken. We have made grants through our VCS Prospectus (announced on 25 February 2011) and indicative figures for each funded organisation for 2012-13 can be found in the press notice on the DfE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/a0074906/voluntary-and-community-organisations-awarded-60-million-grant

Allocations have only been made for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and there is no information about funding beyond that.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on the reform of air passenger duty. [76500]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government undertook a consultation on air passenger duty from 23 March to 17 June 2011. The Government are reviewing the considerable number of responses submitted by interested parties and will publish a summary of responses later this autumn.

Asset Protection Agency: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Asset Protection Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73495]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Asset Protection Agency (APA) was established on 7 December 2009. Total Government Procurement Card (GPC) spend from 7 December 2009 to 31 March 2010 was £2,288.21. There is one transaction of £157.26 for the agency in November 2009 before it was officially established. This is included in the overall figure. There are no other recorded costs on the APA GPC spend from 1 April 2009 to 6 December 2009.

For the period in question, the APA Government Procurement Card was primarily used for purchasing items for the APA such as stationery, IT equipment and tea and coffee.

Business: Fuels

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of the price of fuel on the cost of setting up a new small or medium-sized enterprise; and if he will make a statement. [74961]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 128W, to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham).

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73198]

Miss Chloe Smith: The cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement activities in the Treasury for the Treasury Group were £384,000 in 2008-09, £479,000 in 2009-10 and £611,000 in 2010-11.

The estimated cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement activities in the Treasury Group in 2011-12 is £389,000. The estimated costs of engaging consultants to undertake procurement activities in 2011-12 is £136,371.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73212]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers conduct government business.

Excise Duties

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his rationale is for using the retail prices index instead of the consumer prices index to calculate increases in duty excise. [76033]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government committed at Budget 2011 to continue to implement the duty increases inherited from the previous Government. These are based on the retail prices index. Budget 2011 announced that the Government will review the use of the consumer prices index for indirect taxes once its fiscal consolidation plans have been implemented.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations his Department has received on beer and wine duty fraud since the 2011 Budget. [76356]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors and discuss a broad range of issues, including beer and wine duty fraud, as part of the usual policymaking process. The Government take alcohol fraud very seriously and welcome suggestions to tackle alcohol duty fraud.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commence a formal consultation with the drinks industry on the impact of alcohol duty fraud. [76357]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced that the Government will explore potential legislative measures to tackle existing and emerging threats to alcohol duty receipts at Budget 2011. HMRC are currently consulting with the alcohol industry informally on potential anti-fraud measures, and the impact of duty fraud on legitimate trade. A decision on whether to consult formally will be taken in due course.

HMRC published estimates of losses from duty fraud involving spirits and beer in "Measuring Tax Gaps-2011" in September 2011.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Foreign Investment in UK: Renewable Energy

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he has not approved the price structure proposed to ensure the UK meets its legally binding targets for renewable energy; and what estimate he has made of the level of potential investment that might be affected if the price structure is not approved shortly. [75881]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* The Renewables Obligation banding review has been published, and seeks comments on the level for support available for renewable electricity generation for the period 2013-17 under the Renewables Obligation. Details can be found on the Department of Energy and Climate Change website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

Jobcentre Plus

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last visited a Jobcentre Plus centre in an official capacity. [76029]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Treasury Ministers and officials visit a wide variety of organisations in the public, private and third sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such visits.

Mobile Phones

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's press notice of 3October 2011, how the £150 million to improve mobile telephone coverage will be funded. [76335]

Danny Alexander: The £150 million for improved mobile coverage will be funded from underspends forecasted by Departments for 2011-12 that have been reallocated across future years. The package of conference announcements has no overall effect on the fiscal consolidation.

Money: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of counterfeit *(a)* £1 and *(b)* £2 coins in circulation; [74483]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the face value of counterfeit coins in circulation. [74485]

Miss Chloe Smith: The most recent survey conducted by the Royal Mint found that its sample contained an estimated £1 coin counterfeit rate of 2.94%, or approximately 45 million £1 coins.

The Royal Mint does not currently undertake regular surveys for other denominations. The Royal Mint, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and industry partners do not believe that there is a significant counterfeit issue with any other denominations.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 133W, on National Insurance Contributions, what data limitations prevent the national insurance contribution holiday factsheet differentiating between full-time and part-time jobs; and whether steps are being taken to improve data collection so that such a distinction could be made. [76568]

Mr Gauke: To minimise the burden on employers, the information requested from businesses benefiting from the NICs holiday is reduced to what is absolutely necessary. This includes details on the employer, employees benefiting and the amount saved but not additional data on hours worked or full-time/part-time status. HMRC has no plans to change the data collection for the scheme.

Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card, (1) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 29 May 2007 and 14 June 2007; [76505]

(2) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 21 June 2007 and 28 June 2007; [76506]

(3) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 2 July 2007 and 24 July 2007; [76509]

(4) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 6 September 2007 and 24 September 2007; [76510]

(5) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 13 November 2007 and 12 December 2007; [76512]

(6) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 8 April 2008 and 1 May 2008; [76515]

(7) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 15 February and 26 March 2008; [76514]

(8) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 22 May 2008 and 11 June 2008; [76516]

(9) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 23 June 2008 and 4 July 2008; [76517]

(10) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 11 July 2008 and 18 August 2008; [76519]

(11) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 26 August 2008 and 1 September 2008; [76520]

(12) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 8 September 2008 and 2 October 2008; [76521]

(13) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 7 October 2008 and 22 October 2008; [76522]

(14) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 3 November 2008 and 17 November 2008; [76523]

(15) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 2 December 2008 and 22 December 2008; [76525]

(16) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 19 January 2009 and 9 March 2009; [76526]

(17) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 16 March 2009 and 2 April 2009; [76527]

(18) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 27 April 2009 and 15 June 2009; [76528]

(19) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 19 June 2009 and 25 June 2009; [76529]

(20) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 21 October 2009 and 29 October 2009; [76530]

(21) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 25 November 2009 and 15 January 2010; [76531]

(22) what the names of the suppliers were of the entries listed as hotels and accommodation between 1 March 2010 and 23 March 2010. [76532]

Mr Gauke: The resources needed to gather and review the volume of these transactions, which include operationally sensitive information, would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

The duties of HMRC staff cover a wide range of posts and some roles necessitate overseas or domestic travel that require accommodation in support of key departmental objectives—for example, fiscal crime liaison, EU policy development, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions and mutual administrative assistance.

Information for the whole of the 2007-08, 2008-09 and part of the 2009-10 includes GPC use by-staff prior to their transfer to UKBA under the relevant machinery of government changes.

HMRC applies tight restrictions to both provision of GPC cards and their use and spend is tightly controlled and strictly follows the rules and standards of Government Accounting.

In support of the Government's transparency agenda all Departments will publish GPC transactional level data on their own departmental website, posting a link on:

www.data.gov.uk

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to consult *(a)* staff and *(b)* union officials of the tax credit office in Preston prior to making any decision on staffing levels following the introduction of the universal credit; [76403]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on staffing levels at tax credit offices of the introduction of a universal tax credit. [76564]

Mr Gauke: The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit.

For the introduction of universal credit, it has been agreed to utilise existing capabilities and the best operational units within DWP and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This will ensure people with relevant skills and experience can support claimants as they make the transition to universal credit.

HMRC and DWP are working closely to develop transition plans but are unable to say, at this early stage, what the impact on staffing in HMRC will be. However HMRC will continue to have regular meetings with representatives of the trade unions and, as the plans become more detailed, further information will be made available.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in HM Revenue and Customs work in the affluent team; and how many staff will be recruited to that team in the next 12 months. [76570]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs will have 200 people working in the affluent teams to tackle those who pay or should pay the 50p rate of tax. One hundred of those people were recruited over the summer and the final hundred are moving in to their new posts now.

Revenue and Customs: Recruitment

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of staff in HM Revenue and Customs' affluent team were *(a)* recruited externally and *(b)* redeployed from within HM Revenue and Customs. [76569]

Mr Gauke: One individual was recruited from outside HMRC, but all the other team members have been recruited or redeployed from within HMRC. These new jobs are part of the reinvestment of £917 million over four years, announced in the 2010 spending review. This will see a redeployment of 2,250 staff this year.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in reviewing HM Revenue and Customs' service standards; and what objectives were set for the review. [76423]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is working closely with a wide range of stakeholders within and outside Government and aims to publish agreed service standards by the end of the calendar year.

Tax Allowances

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential revenue yield of freezing the *(a)* capital gains tax allowance threshold and *(b)* inheritance tax allowance threshold for each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [76347]

Mr Gauke: Freezing the capital gains tax annual exempt amount at its current level of £10,600 for individuals and £5,300 for most trusts is equivalent to reducing it from what it would otherwise be by an amount that depends on inflation. Based on the September 2011 annual increase in the consumer prices index and thereafter forecast inflation, the reduction amounts to £600 for individuals and £300 for most trusts in 2012-13 and no more than £600 and £300 respectively for the years 2013-14 to 2015-16.

The information requested is not available but the estimated cost of increasing the annual exempt amount by £500 for individuals and £250 for trusts is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

A freeze to the inheritance tax threshold was announced by the previous Government and was legislated in the Finance Act which received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010. The allowance is frozen at its 2010-11 level of £325,000 until 2014-15. The forecast revenue yield was published in table 2.2 of the Budget 2011 document, available on the Treasury website at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

An estimate of the revenue yield for extending the threshold freeze for the year 2015-16 is not available.

Tax Avoidance

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' target is for the collection of revenue currently lost through tax avoidance and evasion for each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and what progress has been made towards that target in 2011 to date. [76459]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is transforming its compliance work and reinvesting over £900 million of its spending review savings into work against avoidance, evasion, criminal attacks and to recover more debt. Our target is to bring in an additional £7 billion a year by 2014-15 and we are on track to raise £2 billion this year.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the General Anti-Avoidance Rule working group to publish its findings; and when he expects to bring forward any legislative proposals that nay be required. [76467]

Mr Gauke: The Government expect to receive and publish a report from the General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) Study Group in November 2011. The Government recognise that a GAAR is an important matter to both business and private individuals and that time will be needed to digest and carefully evaluate the findings of the study group. Development of a GAAR will be considered to a budget time scale and the Government have committed not to introduce a GAAR without further, formal public consultation.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of revenues lost to the Exchequer as a result of tax avoidance and evasion by *(a)* UK-domiciled individuals and *(b)* UK-based companies in the last year for which figures are available. [76472]

Mr Gauke: The information does not exist in the form requested.

The latest tax gap estimates were published in September 2011 in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2011' on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mtg-2011.pdf

This included the following estimates of the tax gap for 2009-10 from avoidance by individuals and companies:

> Avoidance of income tax, national insurance contributions, capital gains tax is estimated at around £1.5 billion;
>
> Avoidance of corporation tax by businesses managed by HMRC's Large Business Service, is estimated at around £1 billion;
>
> Avoidance of corporation tax by Large and Complex businesses is estimated at around £0.2 billion.

'Measuring Tax Gaps 2011' also contained a broad indication of the tax gap by behaviour for 2009-10. This estimated that:

> Avoidance accounted for around 14% of the total gap for all taxes (£5 billion); and
>
> Evasion accounted for 12% of the total tax gap across all taxes (£4 billion).

Neither the avoidance estimate or the evasion estimate are split between UK domiciled individuals and non-domiciled individuals.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets HM Revenue and Customs has for solving open cases; and what progress has been made towards the achievement of such targets. [76566]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has committed to clearing 17.9 million open cases by December 2012 and is on track to do so.

The Open Case programme was set up in January 2011 to clear the remaining open cases through a combination of technical and clerical clearances.

> HMRC successfully introduced the technical changes in October 2011 and are testing the changes before they go live.
>
> HMRC currently have just under 1,000 staff working on clerical clearances.

Cumulative figures to September show HMRC are ahead of clearance targets. So far HMRC have cleared around 3 million of the 17.9 million cases and the technical changes will enable us to clear millions more of these cases automatically.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 711W, on taxation: environment protection, whether he has plans for the recycling of revenue from the carbon floor price and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme into low-carbon projects. [76415]

Miss Chloe Smith: In the spending review, Government committed significant spending to climate change mitigation and green objectives.

In general, the Government consider that hypothecation, or "earmarking" revenues for a particular spending purpose, is an inefficient way to manage the public finances.

Third Sector

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76239]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers carry out their ministerial duties in line with the "Ministerial Code". Any volunteering activities undertaken by Treasury Ministers in a personal capacity are a matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests.

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of the 2010 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey; and what assessment he has made of the evidential basis for a link between positive patient experience and access to a clinical nurse specialist. [76777]

Paul Burstow: The national report of the 2010 cancer patient experience survey was published in December 2010 and 158 bespoke trust level reports were published in January 2011. Results of the survey have been disseminated widely. The 10% worst performing trusts have been visited to explain their results and offer practical help on actions to improve the experience of their patients. Many trusts have developed local action plans to improve cancer patient experience.

84% of cancer patients responding to the 2010 survey reported that they had been given the name of a clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Of these, over 90% reported that the CNS had listened carefully and were given understandable answers all or most of the time. In every case, cancer patients with a CNS were significantly more likely to be positive about their care and treatment than patients who did not have a CNS. In December 2010 the Department published "One to one support for cancer patients" to assist local decision making and support the continued expansion in one to one support for all cancer patients. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Data Protection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official ministerial papers were recorded as not returned to his Department or otherwise unaccounted for in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76813]

Mr Simon Burns: No ministerial papers have been recorded as not returned or unaccounted for since May 2010.

Euthanasia

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is available to healthcare professionals caring for dying patients who request medical assistance to hasten their death. [76711]

Anne Milton: Euthanasia, the intentional taking of life albeit at a patient's request or for a merciful motive, is unlawful as is encouraging or assisting the suicide of another person.

Professional guidance to support healthcare staff who may have to deal with requests for help to hasten death has been issued by the Royal College of Nursing ("When someone asks for your assistance to die, October 2011"):

www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/410638/004167.pdf

and by the British Medical Association ("Responding to patient requests relating to assisted suicide: guidance for doctors in England/Wales and Northern Ireland, July 2010"):

www.bma.org.uk/images/assistedsuicideguidancejuly2010_tcm41-198675.pdf

Haemophilia

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Health Service Guidance HSG 93(30) on Provision of Haemophilia Treatment and Care was last revised. [76676]

Anne Milton: Health Service Guidance 93(30) on "Provision of haemophilia treatment and care" has not been revised. However, newer documents on treatment and care are available:

The Haemophilia Alliance—"A National Service Specification for Haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders" (2006)

www.ukhcdo.org/docs/HaemAlliance-NatSvsSpec2006.pdf

NHS London Specialised Commissioning Group—"Designation of Haemophilia Services. Model documentation for Specialised Commissioning Groups" (2010)

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/designation-haemophilia-services

JUSTICE

Members: Correspondence

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Harwich and North Essex of 26 January 2011 regarding parliamentary sovereignty and the European Convention on Human Rights. [76058]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have sent a response today, and sincerely apologise for the delay, which was caused by an administrative oversight.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 7 September 2011 regarding Mr R Whalley. [76704]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: A reply has now been sent.

Prisoners

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people from *(a)* Vietnam, *(b)* South Africa, *(c)* Nigeria and *(d)* China were held in prison in England and Wales in (i) May 2010 and (ii) October 2011. [76620]

Mr Blunt: Information on the prison population in England and Wales for the requested nationalities as on 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2011 is shown in the table.

Information on the foreign national prison population in England and Wales as at 30 September 2011 will be published in 'Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin' available on the Ministry of Justice website on 27 October 2011.

Population in prison for selected nationalities, 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2011, England and Wales

Nationality	*30 June 2010*	*30 June 2011*
Vietnam	596	472
South Africa	137	114
Nigeria	727	614
China	364	197

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners' Release: Employment

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been released from prison since May 2010 and what proportion entered into work within (i) one, (ii) three, (iii) six and (iv) 12 months of leaving prison. [75638]

Mr Blunt: Between May 2010 and March 2011 (latest available), 80,513 prisoners were released from prison of which 73,616 were male and 6,897 female.

Information on the employment status of offenders who have been released from prison since May 2010 is not collected centrally on Ministry of Justice administrative data systems. The Ministry of Justice do hold some employment information on offenders, through a one-off data sharing project between MOJ, DWP and HMRC, where initial findings will be published for the first time later in the year.

Resettlement information on offenders, which shows the percentage of prisoners entering employment on release, is held and published by the National Offender Management Service. In 2010/11, 37.6% of offenders were in employment at the end of their sentence.

Prisoners: Employment

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women prisoners were in paid work in each month of 2011. [75763]

Mr Blunt: The latest figures available are up until March 2011. Figures in the following table show the average number of prisoners employed in production workshops by month, broken down by female and male in both the public and private prison estates.

	Private prisons		*Public prisons*		*Total prison system*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
January 2011	—	976	160	8,963	160	9,939
February 2011	—	1,295	167	8,488	167	9,783
March 2011	—	951	161	8,882	161	9,834

The figures do not include those prisoners working on licence in the community. At the time of the prisoner earnings data collection in summer 2010 there were 459 such prisoners in Category D prisons. Prisoners engaged in other paid activity inside prisons are also not included. The figures used in the answer have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing: Children

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of children given indeterminate sentences were subsequently released in each year since 2000; [76708]

(2) what the average time served in custody was of children given indeterminate sentences in each year since 2000. [76709]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 as follows shows that the total number of young people aged 10 to 17 years, serving indeterminate sentences which started between 2005-06 (when the indeterminate sentence came into effect) and 2009-10 is 178, and the proportion who were discharged over this time period is 6%. Table 2 shows data on the average time served in custody (in days) for 10 to 17-year-olds with indeterminate sentences in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

This information set out in Tables 1 and 2 was supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB does not have information on young people once they have turned 18 years old (and may transfer to the adult secure estate). Table 1 therefore does not include data on those who had been released after they had turned 18; and Table 2 refers to the average time in custody where the young person was released before their 18th birthday. In order to gather this information including those aged 18 or more would involve manually extracting and matching YJB and MOJ data and as such would incur a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Number of 10 to 17-year-olds with indeterminate sentences 2005-06 to 2009-10

	10 to 17-year-olds starting indeterminate sentences	*10 to 17-year-olds discharged from indeterminate sentences*
2005-06	17	*
2006-07	54	2
2007-08	41	6
2008-09	38	2
2009-10	28	1
Total	178	11

Notes:
1. YJB data.
2. The indeterminate sentence first came into effect in 2005-06.
3. '*' signifies that there were no releases in this year.
4. The total proportion of indeterminate sentences that ended of those that started in this period is 6%.
It should be noted that the sentences that ended within each year will not necessarily relate to the sentences that started within each year.
5.The YJB does not have data on young people once they turn 18 years old (and may transfer to the adult estate).
The table therefore does not include data on those who had been released after they had turned 18 years of age.
6. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Table 2: Average time served in custody (in days) for 10 to 17-year-olds with indeterminate sentences, 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Average time
2005-06	*
2006-07	248
2007-08	302
2008-09	127
2009-10	307

Notes:
1. YJB data.
2. The indeterminate sentence first came into effect in 2005-06.
3.'*' signifies that there were no releases in this year.
4. The YJB does not have data on young people once they turn 18-years-old (and may transfer to the adult estate).
The table therefore refers to the average time in custody where the young person was released before their 18th birthday.
5. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on the new licensing regime for wild animals in circuses. [75676]

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1405W, on wildlife: circuses, what steps she has taken to overcome the legal difficulties in relation to a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [75776]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend and the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert), during the oral answers to questions on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 467-68.

Animal Welfare: Wildlife

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to assist ground-based wildlife with migratory paths that cross motorways and other busy roads. [75839]

Richard Benyon: There are very few ground-based species whose migratory paths cross motorways and other busy roads. Natural England has long recognised that common toads are among the most vulnerable species in this respect. It has a memorandum of agreement worth £60,000 a year with the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (which oversees the common toad Species Action Plan) and has contributed to recent guidance for planners and highways engineers about common toads and roads.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the National Farmers Union on the vaccination of badgers against bacteria causing bovine tuberculosis. [76535]

Mr Paice: Representatives from the National Farmers Union have met officials and Ministers on several occasions during 2011 to discuss bovine TB, including our work on badger vaccines and their deployment.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether she plans to introduce mandatory carbon reporting for companies; and if she will make a statement. [70797]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, my right hon. Friend the Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), gave to the hon. Member for Dundee West (Jim McGovern), on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 374W.

Coastal Areas

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department makes available for seaside communities to establish whether land reclamation is a viable option. [74466]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA funds the Environment Agency to carry out flood and coastal erosion risk management activity in England. This includes work to develop long-term plans such as shoreline management plans. These plans may include consideration of the viability land reclamation where appropriate.

Cormorants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications there have been to kill cormorants in each of the last five years; and how many were granted in each such year. [76255]

Richard Benyon: Wildlife licensing is a devolved matter and applications for licences in England are made to Natural England. The following table shows the number of applications to kill cormorants received by Natural England in the last five years and how many licences to kill cormorants were granted in each year.

	Number of applications received	*Number of licences issued*
2006	401	322
2007	336	307
2008	386	357
2009	438	416
2010	471	421

Crops: Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of orchards to *(a)* the environment and *(b)* biodiversity. [75849]

Richard Benyon: Orchards are important for a wide range of biodiversity including nationally rare and scarce species. There are 16,990 hectares of traditional orchards across 35,378 sites in England. The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), working with Natural England, has carried out an aerial photo inventory and is verifying this on the ground, with volunteer surveyors visiting the orchards to record the species, age and condition of the fruit trees.

DEFRA provides financial support for approximately 2,500 hectares of orchards through agri-environment schemes. Apple and pear growers are also able to join Producer Organisations where they can apply for matching funding via the Single Common Market Organisation.

Floods: Insurance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with interested parties on the availability of flood insurance for homeowners after the expiry of the Statement of Principles. [75438]

Richard Benyon: We are working closely with the insurance industry to ensure that insurance remains widely available in England after the expiry of the Statement of Principles in July 2013. Following the Flood Summit I hosted in September 2010, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), spoke at a follow-up meeting with insurance providers, community groups and other partners for further discussions on flood risk management and the challenges involved in flood insurance. We will provide an update on options shortly, with the aim of reaching a final decision by the spring.

Metals

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is *(a)* considering taking and *(b)* taking in relation to scrap metal as part of her Department's review of waste policies. [74566]

Richard Benyon: The Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June 2011, set out the Government's principal commitment to prioritise efforts to manage waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reduce the carbon impact of waste.

The Government are working with industry to explore a responsibility deal to raise recycling levels for metal packaging. We have supported the development of European end-of-waste criteria for the recovery of iron, steel and aluminium scrap metal, which took effect from 9 October 2011. Meeting end-of-waste criteria will allow those metals to be traded as non-waste materials.

Additionally, measures are being considered to help deliver a more strategic intelligence-led approach to tackling metal theft (which may include scrap metal). The Home Office is examining the case for streamlining the overlapping controls on scrap metal businesses.

Pesticides

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has taken any enforcement action in respect of the incorrect use of a pesticide product containing aminopyralid in each of the last five years. [70720]

Richard Benyon: The Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), as the pesticides regulator, has considered a number of incidents where the herbicide aminopyralid has been reported as causing a problem in manure. CRD has not been able to determine any breach of pesticides legislation in any of the cases investigated, so no enforcement action has been taken.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate enforcement of restrictions on the use of pesticide products containing aminopyralid. [70721]

Richard Benyon: More stringent restrictions for the use of aminopyralid products were set in 2009 following earlier reports of crop damage caused by the use of manure from animals grazed on land treated with aminopyralid. These restrictions are designed to minimise the risk of contaminated manure being used.

The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) continues to monitor the situation closely and reports to DEFRA Ministers on a regular basis. Reported incidents have declined since the restrictions were tightened and there appears to be a reducing problem. CRD follow-up reported incidents and, to date, have not uncovered evidence of breaches of pesticides law that would lead to enforcement action.

Rivers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many English rivers do not meet the standard of the Water Framework Directive. [76275]

Richard Benyon: There are 4,837 individual river water bodies in England. 3,135 of these rivers are 'natural' rivers and 1,702 are modified rivers. The default objective of the Water Framework Directive (subject to certain exemptions) is to aim to achieve good ecological and chemical status for natural rivers and good chemical status and ecological potential for heavily modified rivers by 2015. Where these water bodies are already at "good" or better, the requirement is to ensure there is no deterioration in status.

In 2010 the Environment Agency assessed 4,771 of these river water bodies in England. 1,028 (22%) of these were at either good status/potential or better. 3,743 (78%) of English river water bodies were failing to meet good ecological status.

Actions agreed in River Basin Management Plans will reduce the number of failing rivers by 5% by 2015. The additional £92 million funding provided by DEFRA from 2011-15 to tackle failing rivers will further stretch this ambition.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effects of abstraction and pollution on English rivers; and if she will make a statement. [76276]

Richard Benyon: In 2010, 22% of English river water bodies were assessed to be at good ecological status or good ecological potential. Ecological quality may be impacted by multiple environmental pressures, including changes to land use, river channel modifications, chemical quality, and alterations to flow. Obstructions can impact on the connectivity of rivers, which can affect the suitability of river habitats for different species, or may present a barrier to fish migration. Natural or man-made barriers impacting on fish migration are a contributing pressure in about 6% of English river water bodies failing good ecological status. Other factors affecting the connectivity, form and function of rivers are a contributing pressure in about 21% of rivers failing good ecological status. The main polluting pressures include nutrients, in about 46%, and organic (sanitary) pollutants in about 21%.

Squirrels: Pest Control

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the annual cost to the public purse of grey squirrel control. [75952]

Richard Benyon: The Forestry Commission in England spent approximately £102,000 during 2008-09, £127,000 during 2009-10 and £121,000 during 2010-11 on activities associated with the control of grey squirrel populations on the public forest estate.

Also, a proportion of funding from the England Woodland Grant Scheme is spent on grey squirrel control, but this is not recorded separately from other grant aided woodland management activities under the scheme.

There is no central record of costs incurred by other public bodies such as local authorities or individual landowners which may include domestic and urban park squirrel control activity.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the cost of damage caused by grey squirrels nationwide. [75953]

Richard Benyon: The report "The Economic Cost of Invasive Non-native Species on Great Britain", produced by the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International in 2010, was jointly commissioned by DEFRA, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government. It provides a comprehensive estimate of the costs of invasive non-native species to the economy of Great Britain and includes several species-specific case studies. The report estimated that the cost to the British economy of the grey squirrel was at least £14 million per annum.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the annual cost of the security regulatory system to the aviation industry; and what estimate she has made of the potential cost-savings to the industry arising from implementation of the proposals in her Department's Better Regulation for Aviation Security consultation document. [76598]

Mrs Villiers: A draft impact assessment accompanied the consultation, launched on 14 July, which estimated that the current cost of the security regulatory system to airports and airlines is £770 million per year. The consultation seeks industry views on where potential costs and benefits may be accrued through the implementation of an outcome-focused, risk-based model of regulation.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's consultation document, Better Regulation for Aviation Security, what estimate she has made of the projected time savings for airline passengers being processed by a security management system as opposed to existing systems. [76599]

Mrs Villiers: The Government propose to move away from a 'one size fits all' model of prescriptive regulation to one focused on outcomes and based on risk, using security management systems as the means of delivering, measuring and improving security outcomes. Under this model it will be for airport and airline operators to determine how those outcomes can be achieved in ways that maintain or enhance security, while also improving the experience for air transport users.

Bus Services: Concessions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much subsidy was given to coach operators to offer concessionary coach travel to pensioners and disabled people in each of the last five years; and what savings she estimates will be made from ending concessionary coach travel in each year of the current spending review period. [76550]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The following table shows the amount paid by the Department for Transport to coach operators offering half price concessions to older people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people in England in each of the last five years.

Grant paid to coach operators in England offering half price concessions to older people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people

	£
2010-11	17,042,776
2009-10	17,850,348
2008-09	15,424,141
2007-08	14,312,570
2006-07	12,916,564

The Department estimates around £6 million will be saved in 2011-12 and £17 million in the remaining years of the spending review period.

Crossrail Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to make changes to the Crossrail procurement process in light of experience from the Thameslink rolling stock procurement process. [75283]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by her Department in 2010-11; what guidance her Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if she will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by his Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72575]

Norman Baker: Before the Department commissions external legal support, it takes advice from its own procurement and legal staff. It follows relevant guidance issued by OGC available at:

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/services/Legal/

by the Treasury Solicitors' Department; and the Attorney-General's Department.

The Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies instructed several external solicitors and barristers in 2010-11. To confirm all the names, average hourly rates paid, and actual sums paid to individual external solicitors and barristers engaged in that period would, I regret, incur a disproportionate cost. However, the following information is readily available.

In 2010-11 the following payments were made to external solicitors by DFT(c) and the Highways Agency:

1. DFT(c) (i.e. the central department)—£5,544,147
2. The Highways Agency—£5,568,757

The external solicitors' firms whose fees were paid by DFT(c) or the Highways Agency were:

Beachcroft LLP
Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP
Burges Salmon
CMS Cameron McKenna LLP
Christian Khan
SNR Denton
Eversheds LLP
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
Linklaters
Pannone LLP
Shoosmiths
Thomas Eggar
Veale Wasbrough Vizards
Winckworth Sherwood
Wragge and Co LLP

In 2010-11 the following external barristers were instructed by DFT(c), and payments made to them:

Claire Darwin—£101
David Barr*—£11,331
James Dingemans QC—£188,515
Jessica Simor*—£13,501
Jonathan Crow QC—£3,378
Jonathan Hough—£117,946
Karen Steyn*—£789
Kieron Beal*—£2,467
Maria Gallagher*—£1,616
Nigel Cooper QC—£1,375
Peter Mantle*—£2,402
Samuel Wordsworth*—£950
Timothy Mould QC—£2,805
Vikram Sachdeva*—£1,575
Jonathan Swift QC (First Treasury Counsel)

Those barristers marked with an asterisk are on the Attorney-General's (London) panel of approved counsel. They are paid according to Government agreed rates which are as follows:

A Panel—£120 per hour

B Panel—£100 per hour

C Panel—£80 per hour if over five years call. £60 per hour is under five years call

First Treasury Counsel's hourly rate is £220

Further details on the panel can be found at the following website:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in analysing responses to the High Speed 2 rail consultation. [76499]

Justine Greening: The analysis of responses for the high speed rail consultation which is being produced independently of the Department, is almost complete and the final report will be presented to me shortly. I will carefully consider the report and advice from officials, before taking decisions on high speed rail.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason her Department has not published *(a)* the analysis of responses to the High Speed 2 rail consultation and *(b)* the proposed route and strategy. [76542]

Justine Greening: The Government have made clear their intention to announce their decisions on high speed rail in light of the results of the consultation by the end of 2011. The analysis of responses for the high speed rail consultation will be published along with the announcement.

The proposed route for consultation was published in December 2010 and the Government strategy for consultation was set out in the consultation document, published in February 2011.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards publishing the route and strategy for the High Speed 2 line. [76577]

Justine Greening: The Department for Transport's business plan sets a public target of announcing decisions on the HS2 strategy and route from London to the West Midlands, by the end of 2011.

Invalid Vehicles: Regulation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 19W, on invalid vehicles: regulation, when she plans to announce the results of her Department's consultation on proposed changes to legislation governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs; [75484]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 200W, on invalid vehicles: regulation, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the results of her Department's consultation on proposed changes to legislation governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. [75485]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 18 October 2011]*: The Department's full response to the consultation will be published as soon as possible. Following careful consideration and analysis of all the responses received, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the industry and user group representatives on the following issues:

options for training and incentives for vehicle users to take up training;

a possible minimum eyesight requirement and incentives for users to meet these requirements;

the case for increasing the unladen weight limit for powered wheelchairs only;

the carriage of mobility scooters on public transport;

improved guidance and information for mobility vehicle users; and

replacing the legal term "invalid carriage" with a more suitable and contemporary term, and a review of how current legislation could be better enforced.

These issues will be considered in relation to the aims of the Red Tape Challenge.

Railways

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on a high-speed rail link between Gatwick and Heathrow airports. [73998]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to developing a new policy framework for aviation which supports economic growth while addressing the environmental impacts of flying. We plan to publish a draft aviation policy for consultation in the spring.

As part of our work on this we are seeking views on the key issues which need to be addressed, including the importance of a UK hub airport and whether it might be possible to create a 'virtual hub' by improving connectivity between existing airports. The proposal on a high-speed rail link between Gatwick and Heathrow will form a useful contribution to the debate and will be considered alongside all other responses.

Railways: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what commitments she has had from *(a)* train operating companies and *(b)* Network Rail on provision of passenger information in the event of winter weather-related disruption. [76803]

Norman Baker: Train operating companies and Network Rail are implementing a wide range of measures to improve progressively the provision of passenger information in the event of winter weather-related and other disruptions.

Measures they have taken include improvements to contingency timetables provision and communication methods; alternative contingency timetables for short-notice upload to websites and information displays when disruptions affect normal services; long-line PA systems are being introduced at some stations and some TOCs are now using social media to disseminate information to passengers in real time.

I regularly meet train operating companies and Network Rail, and preparations for winter, and indeed, autumn-related weather disruption is high on the agenda.

Railways: Weather

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of train operating companies' preparedness for extreme winter weather conditions. [76355]

Norman Baker: The Department is liaising with train operating companies to monitor their winter preparations. Our aim is to ensure that their proposed plans take account of the lessons learnt from the last two winter experiences.

We understand that their contingency and resilience plans include provisions to overcome such problems. These include improved passenger communication strategies and development of additional contingency timetables for service operations under different weather scenarios. They also include a range of modifications to train fleets to improve resilience and address problems encountered in previous winters.

Roadworks

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to ensure that local authorities' roadworks are subject to the same rules as roadworks conducted by utility companies; and if she will make a statement. [76533]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Street works provisions in the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 apply to works carried out by utility companies and others with apparatus in the highway, but not to local authority works. However, the Government are encouraging local authorities to develop proposals for permit schemes under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which requires authorities to treat their own works in the same way as those carried out by utility companies and other statutory undertakers. The Government's draft guidance on lane rental schemes, currently out to consultation, also encourages local authorities to apply the same financial incentives to their own works contractors as they propose to require of utility companies.

Thames Estuary Airport

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the feasibility of establishing an airport in the Thames Estuary. [75779]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made any recent assessment of the merits of a new airport in the Thames estuary.

The Government are developing a new policy framework for aviation which supports economic growth while addressing the environmental impacts of flying. We will consider all responses to the scoping exercise which has recently closed on this issue.

West Coast Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been of *(a)* full-time equivalent staff in her Department, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* solicitors involved in the negotiations with Virgin Rail Group on extending the Intercity West Coast rail franchise. [76485]

Mrs Villiers: The cost of full-time equivalent staff in the Department for Transport involved in the negotiations with Virgin Rail Group on extending the Intercity West Coast rail franchise is £80,000. For consultants the cost is £121,000 and for solicitors £62,000.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he made an estimate of the carbon footprint which would arise from requiring energy companies to write to their customers to inform them how they may be able to achieve a cheaper tariff prior to the energy summit of 17 October 2011. [76796]

Gregory Barker: We have not made a specific assessment of the carbon footprint of the communication energy suppliers voluntarily agreed to send to their customers who pay by cash or cheque to let them know how much they could save by moving to the cheapest direct debit tariff. Energy suppliers will send this communication by e-mail or text where possible, minimising any environmental impact.

Carbon Emissions: Natural Gas

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to the potential contribution of off-mains gas households to meeting carbon emission targets. [76661]

Charles Hendry: The contribution of off-mains gas households is a consideration in developing all our household carbon cutting policies, including the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and the Green Deal.

The Green Deal framework has been designed to enable all 4.3 million households off the mains gas network to potentially benefit, as the Green Deal "charge" will be attached to the electricity meter.

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75634]

Gregory Barker: Our financial records show that since May 2010, £128,000 has been spent on external advertising of job vacancies.

Foresee

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* date, *(b)* time, *(c)* attendees and *(d)* topics of discussion were of each meeting with Ministers in his Department attended by Miriam Maes in her role as Chief Executive of Foresee Ltd since May 2010. [76795]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 188W.

Satellite Communications

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of earth observation satellite technology in monitoring *(a)* climate change and *(b)* the effects of climate change. [76814]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 378W.

Sellafield

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of decommissioning the nuclear site at Sellafield in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost in each year to 2016. [76435]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Decommissioning at Sellafield includes all activities from post-operational clean-out, waste treatment, maintenance of facilities and interim storage before final disposal. The following table sets out what the cost of decommissioning the nuclear site at Sellafield was in each of the last five years, alongside the projected costs in the 2010 spending review period.

Sellafield decommissioning cost

	£ million
2006-07	447
2007-08	584
2008-09	662
2009-10	660
2010-11	662
2011-12	762
2012-13	837
2013-14	813
2014-15	741

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to maintain the global position of the UK in respect of the creative industries; and what account he will take of the *(a)* digital and *(b)* global nature of such markets in such plans. [75745]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Building on the ambitions described in The Plan For Growth, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has developed a new strategy "Britain Open For Business" which shows how the government will continue to support SMEs and high growth companies, and in particular those in the digital field that remain at the forefront of many global creative developments, in key markets around the world and to encourage inward investment from the sector.

UKTI works in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and with Industry through the Creative Industries Council and through the Creative Industries International Marketing Strategy Board to develop and deliver strategies to promote the sector internationally. Working with its global network, UKTI continues to engage with key investors in the digital and creative space who have been identified as having the greatest potential for (further) investment in the UK. UKTI also delivers a tailored programme including missions and showcasing activities to promote the UK's creative industries internationally, many of which specifically focus on digital.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76245]

John Penrose: No Ministers within the Department have yet undertaken a One Day Challenge. Each Minister is committed to their pledge, and is looking forward to undertaking the challenge in the near future.

Libraries

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much he expects to save through the abolition of the Advisory Council on Libraries. [76025]

Mr Vaizey: Apart from staff time and expenses, there are no expected costs or savings associated with the proposed abolition of the Advisory Council on Libraries (ACL). ACL has no budget, premises, assets, liabilities, contracts or employees. Costs associated with ACL activity, such as members' expenses and hospitality charges for meetings, are charged to the Department for approximately £2,500 per annum.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Enterprise Zones: West Midlands

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the number of highly-skilled jobs that will be created as a result of the operation of the Birmingham and Solihull Enterprise Zone; [76047]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the creation of the enterprise zone in Birmingham on jobs in Birmingham Ladywood constituency. [74516]

Greg Clark: The Government approved the Birmingham City Centre Enterprise Zone bid in August. In their accompanying press release, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull local enterprise partnership announced that the Zone could generate up to 40,000 new jobs over its lifetime.

Enterprise Zones are about allowing areas with real potential to create the new business and jobs that they need, with positive benefits across the wider economic area. This means that areas like Ladywood are able to benefit from the jobs and economic opportunities created.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what transactions have been made on his Department's Government Procurement Card by each card-holding director and board member of the Audit Commission since 2006-07; and what the *(a)* supplier, *(b)* date, *(c)* amount and *(d)* name of the card holder was for each transaction. [73224]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 26 October 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive is on leave.

The Audit Commission does not have access to GPC cards provided by the Department. Only the Chief Executive and Chairman held GPC cards. They no longer hold them.

The Audit Commission does not hold electronic records on individual card holder transactions from 2006/07 and 2007/08. This information is archived in hard copy, and could only be retrieved at disproportionate cost.

We have, however, provided information for 2008/09 and 2009/10 on 10 May 2011 official report column 1175-1177w. The only other transaction since 31 March 2010 was on 28 June 2010 by the Chief Executive Eugene Sullivan for £415.15 at the City Inn Westminster.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to make it mandatory for local authorities to provide residents with the opportunity to raise issues of concern with councillors at full council and cabinet meetings through public question and answer sessions for the purposes of improving local democratic accountability; and if he will make a statement. [74796]

Robert Neill: Although this matter is governed by councils' Standing Orders, Ministers believe all councils should ensure there is opportunity for some form of public speaking at such council meetings.

Public Sector: Pensions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on public sector: pension, when the Government plans to respond to the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's recommendations. [76804]

Robert Neill: The Government have accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trade unions and other interested parties about the need for long term reform of public service pension schemes.

The Government and the TUC meet on a regular basis to discuss public service pension reform. These discussions cover Lord Hutton's key recommendations and the Government's proposed increase in members' contributions. Discussions have also opened at a scheme by scheme level to ensure a fuller understanding of the implications of reform before final conclusions can be reached. The Government intend to introduce changes from 2015 and have confirmed that all pension benefits earned up to that point will be protected.

The reforms will ensure that all public service pensions will continue to be among the best pensions available.

Regional Development Agencies: Property Transfer

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that the assets of regional development agencies are disposed of in an open and transparent manner. [76113]

Greg Clark: The approach to disposing of agencies' assets will follow the principles set out in the Local Growth White Paper and the statement on the agencies assets and liabilities made on 10 February 2011. A copy of this is in the Library of the House.

The majority of the agencies' land and property portfolio transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency on 19 September 2011 under a stewardship arrangement. As set out in the Business, Innovation and Skills written ministerial statement of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 95-96WS, the Homes and Communities Agency will establish local committees to allow local bodies such as local authorities, businesses, local enterprise partnerships and others to influence development of the portfolio, and maximise economic outcomes and benefits for local communities and the taxpayer.

Social Rented Housing

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1-5WS, on the work of the Department (Conference Recess), what estimate he has made of the number of households with an income of over £100,000 living in social housing in each local authority area. [76444]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* It is estimated that in social rented housing in England there are between 1,000 and 6,000 households where the household reference person and partner have a combined income over £100,000 per annum. There will be other cases where households in the social rented sector have total incomes exceeding £100,000—for example because of the earnings of flat sharers, lodgers, or grown-up children—but such cases are not counted here. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of this estimate by local authority because of the sample sizes of the sources, the English Housing survey and the Family Resources survey.

I am minded to introduce a "pay to stay" scheme for social tenants on incomes greater than £100,000 who want to stay in their properties. We will be publishing a consultation on this in due course, which will consider how best to configure the scheme and ensure it is appropriately targeted at genuine high earners.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish his proposed new Planning Policy Statement for Traveller sites. [76792]

Robert Neill: The Government intend to publish their final policy as soon as possible following due consideration of the consultation responses.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Waste

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost of implementing weekly refuse collections for household waste in the Calderdale council area. [73824]

Robert Neill: As outlined in the written statement of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1WS, the new Weekly Collections Support Scheme will support councils which switch from fortnightly to better weekly collections, and will support weekly collection councils which wish to keep and improve the weekly service they offer.

This initiative will help councils deliver better weekly collections, and in the process make it easier for families to go green and improve local amenity and local environment.

The cuts to frontline rubbish services encouraged by the last Administration were a lazy option. We believe that more joint working, better procurement, positive incentives and new technology are better ways of improving value for money, while maintaining regular and comprehensive services for local residents.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Advisory Services

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed services personnel receive advice on *(a)* budgetary and life skills, *(b)* debt management, *(c)* physical health, *(d)* mental health and *(e)* substance misuse before leaving the armed services. [76225]

Mr Robathan: All service leavers are entitled to some form of resettlement advice, regardless of rank and length of service, which includes financial-related briefings, to which spouses/partners are also invited, covering budget and debt management. If individuals wish further advice in-depth one-to-one meetings are also offered and organisations that can provide advice on debt management are signposted by resettlement staff.

Advice on maintaining good physical and mental health is provided throughout individuals' service careers, which provides them with an excellent foundation for their future civilian life. All personnel receive a discharge medical assessment prior to discharge, at which any specific concerns can be raised. Personnel are given advice on the importance of seeking medical help, including the ability to access the Military Departments of Community Mental Health and are also given advice on other organisations that can provide help, for example from service charities such as Combat Stress. In addition, a counselling service exists for service personnel who, upon leaving the armed forces, are considered by their unit interviewing officer as vulnerable to social exclusion.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the inquest of Sergeant Major Adamson held in June 2011, if he will review the decision regarding a compensation claim to establish if it can be paid in such circumstances regardless of whether a formal legal obligation exists. [76364]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Prior to May 1987, service personnel (or their dependants in the case of a fatality) were prevented from pursuing claims for compensation from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) by Section 10 of The Crown Proceedings Act 1947. Section 10 was repealed by The Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Act 1987.

When the House debated the repeal of Section 10, the question of retrospection was considered and motions to allow all past and present members of HM Forces or their dependants to pursue compensation claims for injury or death were moved: they were defeated or withdrawn. The view then, as it is now, was that there was no logical point at which to draw a line, short of trying to cover all types of injury, and this would create more examples of unfairness and injustice.

This position was challenged in the other place on the basis that Section 10 of The Crown Proceedings Act 1947 is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The noble Lords, Lord Bingham, Lord Hoffman, Lord Millett, Lord Hope and Lord Walker heard the matter on 13 and 14 January 2003 and a unanimous judgment was handed down on 13 February 2003 in favour of the MOD. The MOD's position concerning the payment of claims predating the repeal of Section 10 of The Crown Proceedings Act remains unchanged.

When compensation claims are submitted, they are considered on the basis of whether or not the MOD has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a legal liability to pay compensation we do so. As the incident leading to Sergeant Major Adamson's tragic death was before the repeal of Section 10 in 1987, any claim in respect of this tragic death is prevented by law.

Arms Trade: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department attended the recent Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. [76645]

Peter Luff: The exhibition was attended by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), the Minister for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), the Under Secretary of State for Defence, my noble Friend Lord Astor of Hever and myself.

A wide range of officials at various grades attended from the Ministry of Defence including: the Permanent Secretary, the Chief of Defence Material, the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Chief of the General Staff, and the Chief of the Air Staff.

BAE Systems

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the recent redundancies announced by BAE Systems have had on his industrial strategy for defence. [73372]

Peter Luff: UK industry plays a vital role in equipping and supporting our armed forces. A White Paper setting out the Government's approach to equipment, support and technology issues in the defence and security areas will be published later in the year.

Defence Equipment: Gibraltar

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the book value is of the surplus vessels and equipment for sale by tender in Gibraltar. [70985]

Peter Luff: The surplus vessels and equipment for sale by tender in Gibraltar are advertised on the website:

www.edisposals.com

Net Book Values (the cost of the asset minus depreciation) is an accounting device and bears no relation to the reserve price set by the Disposal Services Authority for the sale of the items, which are shown in the following table:

Disposal Services Authority Reference	*Description*	*Net Book Value (NBV)*
DSA (G) 567	Cyclone Harbour Launch	120.23
DSA (G) 620	Typhoon Speedboat[1]	[2]—
DSA (G) 665 (grouped into 35 Lots)	Dumb Sullage Lighter	27.91
	Twin Unit Tractor Tug	446.42
	Range Safety Craft	78.06
	Brow	[2]—
	20 Ton Mobile Crane	[2]—
	30 Ton Mobile Crane	[2]—
	2 Milling Machines	12,448.09
	Pillar Drill	[2]—
	3 Mobile Steam Boilers	2,610.44
	Dumper	[2]—
	Grinder Planer Blade	[2]—
	Mechanical Brow	78,638.83
	Pedestal Buffer	[2]—
	2 Cherry Pickers	17.91
	2 Compressors	[2]—
	2 Load Test Units	15,253.19
	4 Centre Lathes	[2]—
	Horizontal Borer	[2]—
	Blade Sharpener Bandsaw	[2]—
	60 Ton Hydraulic Press	[2]—
	Sonic Tank	[2]—
	Rinse Tank	[2]—
	Condenser Dryer Unit	[2]—
	Engraving Machine	[2]—
	Grinder	[2]—
	HP Air Compressor	[2]—
	Grinder Circular Saw Blade	[2]—

[1] Vessel recovered at sea by Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Ministry of Defence property by default as vessel not claimed.
[2] NBV not held.

Cultural Heritage

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's 2009-11 Heritage Report, which heritage risks have been identified for active management during the transition period following the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [76409]

Mr Robathan: Two heritage risks have been identified for active management by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the heritage report during the transition period following the strategic defence and security review:

To ensure that the policy and management processes for managing MOD's heritage portfolio are considered and embedded within the transformation of MOD's estate management to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

To ensure that the sustainable future of MOD's heritage assets within the scope of the basing review is safeguarded within any future disposal or redevelopment initiatives.

Departmental Manpower

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on promoting British jobs and contracts within the defence industry. [73165]

Peter Luff: Ministers and officials hold regular discussions with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a range of issues, including the development of the forthcoming White Paper on technology, equipment and support for UK defence and security, encouraging exports and greater support to small and medium sized businesses. The long-term prosperity of UK industry depends on being competitive and market sensitive, in order to offer value for money to the British taxpayer and compete successfully in foreign markets.

European Fighter Aircraft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on levels of employment of a slow-down in orders for tranche 3A of the Eurofighter. [76086]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 600W.

Members: Correspondence

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Richmond Park of 28 March 2011, regarding service family accommodation and the Green Deal. [76417]

Mr Robathan: I apologise that my hon. Friend has not yet received a response to his letter. This was due to an administrative oversight which I have asked my officials to investigate. I now have a copy of the letter and will respond as soon as possible.

Dalgety Bay

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the clean-up of radioactive contamination arising from radioactive luminous dials from redundant military aircraft dismantled at Donibristle military airfield at Dalgety Bay in Fife was not included in the programme of work described in his Department's Nuclear Liabilities Management Strategy published in September 2011. [75750]

Mr Robathan: The Nuclear Liabilities Management Strategy deals with the liabilities which have arisen from the Defence Nuclear programme, which covers the building and operating of nuclear submarines and the manufacture and management of nuclear weapons.

The former Royal Naval Air Station Donibristle did not form any part of either the current or historic Defence Nuclear programme. Consequently, the aircraft dismantling activities in question and the potential for radioactive land contamination associated with luminous dials fall outside of the scope of the strategy and have therefore not been included.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish any advice obtained by his Department in relation to the risk to health from radioactive pollution found at Dalgety Bay in Fife. [75753]

Mr Robathan: We are currently discussing the situation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as inquiries are complete.

Radioactive Waste

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which locations his Department has records of the burial of radium fragments. [75757]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes a proactive approach to the assessment of land quality across the estate and to the management of the risks to human health and the environment. This includes radium 226 associated predominantly with the historical maintenance and disposal of luminised instruments especially during and after the second world war and which are present to some degree at many current and former MOD sites.

Where radium-226 contamination has been identified the potential risks are managed at site level. Such contamination on MOD sites is present in a relatively non-mobile form, with there being little to no leaching to soils and limited solubility in groundwater. As such, it is believed that radium and for that matter radiological contamination on MOD sites poses a relatively low risk to human health and the wider environment.

While the MOD has information on those sites which have been subject to land quality assessment, the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department attended the recent Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. [76648]

Mr Prisk: The Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, attended the recent Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition.

Though not a BIS Minister, the Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change and Government Spokesperson, my noble Friend, Lord Marland, also attended in his capacity as Chairman of UKTI Business Ambassadors' Group.

We estimate around 220 UKTI and BIS officials attended. The majority of officials were from UKTI Defence and Security Organisation.

Business: Marketing

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on measures to protect *(a)* consumers and *(b)* businesses from unsolicited, unwanted marketing approaches. [74035]

Mr Davey: Government recognises that some people find unsolicited mail and phone calls a real nuisance. That is why we have made sure that there are preference services in place to stop them. More information about postal preference services can be found on the Mailing Preference Service website:

www.mpsonline.org.uk

We strongly advise people to be very wary of unsolicited offers which sound too good to be true, as they often are. Where people receive material through the postal system which they believe is either misleading or may promote a scam or fraud, they should inform the appropriate authorities (Advertising Standards Authority, Trading Standards or Action Fraud). Consumers and businesses are protected from unsolicited marketing telephone calls through the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (PECR). This prohibits calls to a consumer who has either previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls or has been registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS), or for business through the Corporate Telephone Preference Service (CTPS) scheme, for at least 28 days. Companies are legally required not to call a number that has registered on the TPS or CTPS list. Redress is available if registration is ignored. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for enforcing the TPS and CTPS and is able to issue a fine of up to £500,000 for the most serious breaches of the regulations.

Consumers are also protected from unsolicited automated recorded calls through the same PECR regulations. Companies that make recorded calls to sell or promote their product or business have to comply with Regulation 19 (1) and (2) of the Privacy Regulations, which require that prior consent of the recipient has to be obtained before such calls can be made. Regulation 24 (1) (a) states that all messages must include the identity of the caller and an address or freephone number at which the caller can be contacted.

In addition, most telecom service providers offer a range of services that can reduce the need to answer an unsolicited marketing call.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74988]

Mr Davey: The Department has recently collected information to benchmark its back office functions as part of a wider shared services programme and the cost of processing the payment of an invoice in 2010/11 was calculated as £3.24.

In the same period, 99.4% of all invoices were settled electronically and 0.6% were settled by payable order (cheque).

Exports: Libya

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assistance he plans to provide to small and medium-sized enterprises owed money for goods supplied to Libyan customers shortly before the recent conflict in that country; [76106]

(2) if he will provide Sellers International Ltd of Huddersfield with assistance whilst it awaits payment by customers in Libya for engineering products supplied before the recent conflict in that country. [76107]

Mr Prisk: The British Government are engaging at the highest level with the National Transitional Council (NTC) in Libya on a wide range of issues including the recovery of assets and to secure debt and compensation payments on behalf of British companies. The NTC have already said that any future administration in Libya will honour existing legal and contractual obligations, including to foreign companies. Although HMG is unable to intervene directly in individual cases, we will continue to remind the Libyan authorities of their commitment and urge them to honour it. It is essential that companies, like Sellers International Ltd of Huddersfield, return to Libya once the situation on the ground allows, not only to pursue new business but to recover their assets and to pursue debts.

Exports: Licensing

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of applications for standard individual export licences were processed in *(a)* 20 working days or fewer, *(b)* between 21 and 30 working days, *(c)* between 31 and 45 working days, *(d)* between 46 and 60 working days and *(e)* over 61 working days in each year between 2005 and 2010. [76718]

Mr Prisk: Information on standard individual export licences processed is published in the Annual Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

In Section 3 of each annual report—Table 3.8 gives you "SIELs Processing Performance" within 20 working days and within 60 working days.

Table 3.9 gives a breakdown in working days as follows: 0-5; 6-10; 11-15; 16-20; 21-25; 26-30 and 31+.

They are available to view at:

http://www.exportcontroldb.bis.gov.uk

Click on "Published Reports" and then click on "Strategic export control: Annual Report Policy Text" for the year you require.

Higher Education: Charities

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether his Department has conducted an impact assessment on the likely effect of an expansion of for-profit higher education providers on the financial viability of existing higher education institutions; [73393]

(2) with reference to his Department's Higher Education White Paper, what assessment his Department has made of the likely cost to existing higher education providers of an expansion of alternative providers in the higher education sector. [73394]

Mr Willetts: The Department's Higher Education White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System" was accompanied by an impact assessment. This provides analysis of some of the benefits and costs of an expansion of alternative and for-profit providers, including upon the financial viability of existing providers. This impact assessment is available at:

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/all-documents/

Higher Education: Fraud

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential for creation of bogus universities as a result of changes to the rules governing the awarding of university title; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on this issue. [73392]

Mr Willetts: Offering a degree qualification that could be taken to be that of a UK institution without having been recognised by the UK authorities—a so-called "bogus" degree—is an offence. A recognised body is one which has been granted degree awarding powers.

The proposals we are making around university title as part of our reforms to higher education relate specifically to reducing the student numbers criterion in order to enable smaller institutions with degree awarding powers to access university title. There is no connection between these proposals and the phenomenon of bogus degrees or universities.

The proposals for reform of higher education we have set out and on which we are currently consulting have been agreed across Government.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76368]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 24 October 2011]*: When the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and Ministers are provided with advice which raises legal issues, that advice will include legal advice provided by lawyers employed by the Department (and where appropriate in turn informed by advice from counsel or external lawyers). It is not within the cost limit to give a figure for the number of times such legal advice has been given within the periods specified as no specific records are kept.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times his Department has sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76381]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The Department does not keep a central record of the number of times external counsel is consulted. When seeking legal advice from external counsel the Department uses the following guidance:

The Attorney-General's guidelines on the use of the private sector for Government legal work.

Treasury Solicitor's Department's guidance on the use of counsel.

Government Legal Service guidance on the best practice for Government, lawyers managing private sector provision of legal services.

Government Legal Services procurement protocol.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills procurement code and procurement guidance.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Foreign Investment in the UK

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made by UK Trade and Investment on ensuring that local enterprise partnerships are vehicles for inward investment from foreign countries. [76560]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is having detailed discussions with local enterprise partnerships about how they can best support the attraction, landing and retention of foreign direct investment to the UK. They play a critical role, particularly in providing information on the local offer (why it carries national or international comparative advantage), and in resolving local issues for potential and existing investors. UKTI is currently developing memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with local enterprise partnerships, or their local partner organisations, to cement the working relationship. A number of MoUs have already been signed and discussions on others, including with the Birmingham and Solihull local enterprise partnership, are well underway.

Postage Stamps: Prices

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the process for setting the price of a first class stamp; and from whom. [76798]

Mr Davey: I have not received any specific representations about the process for setting the price of first class stamps, but am of course aware of the consultation issued by the postal services regulator, Ofcom, on 20 October—"Securing the Universal Postal Service".

The regulator's proposals—which were developed independently of Government—include giving Royal Mail freedom to set its own prices for first class deliveries, while maintaining a price cap for second class mail.

The Government encourages anyone with an interest in the future of the universal postal service to take the opportunity to participate in Ofcom's consultation, which runs until 5 January 2012. More information about the consultation can be found on Ofcom's website:

www.ofcom.org.uk

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the letter of 11 June 2010 from the Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Beddington, on public science spending, what his Department's response was to that letter; and when it was issued. [75873]

Mr Willetts: Professor John Beddington's letter of 11 June 2010 was one of many helpful pieces of high-level advice solicited as part of a consultation in the run up to the spending review of 2010.

Professor John Beddington's advice helped to shape the allocations of science and research funding for 2011/12 to 2014/15 ("Investing in World-Class Science and Research"), which were announced in December 2010.

WALES

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what volunteering *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76228]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I are scheduled to undertake a day's volunteering with organisations based in Wales in the coming months, including the Prince's Trust. We would be happy to provide further details on the organisations assisted and the nature of the work undertaken once it has been completed.

CABINET OFFICE

Data Protection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many official Ministerial papers were recorded as not returned to his Department or otherwise unaccounted for in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76812]

Mr Maude: No Cabinet Committee papers have been recorded as not returned or otherwise unaccounted for since May 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on *(a)* the big society bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering in each month since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75098]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) receives many representations on these subjects and is keen to engage with delivery partners wherever this can support benefit claimants into work.

Departmental Ministers and officials are in discussion with their counterparts in the Cabinet Office on how big society capital (formerly referred to as the 'big society bank') can contribute to the delivery of welfare-to-work reform. Big society capital will not be a grant-making organisation. It is expected, however, that it will often partner with grant-making institutions such as the Big Lottery Fund, National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and foundations that share big society capital's objectives.

DWP has held an open and continuing dialogue about the Work programme and Work Together with a wide range of stakeholders. There has been significant interest from MPs, other Government Departments, local authorities, the devolved Administrations, the welfare to work industry, and customer representative groups.

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75006]

Chris Grayling: Information on the amount spent in financial year 2010-11 and, for reasons of comparison, financial year 2009-10 is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	*Newspaper/ magazine spend*	*Periodical spend*
2009-10	26,928.58	96,011.27
2010-11	27,905.75	80,071.96

This is a 16.6% decrease on periodical spend between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

There are two reasons for the increase in costs for newspapers and magazines:

(a) Inflation for publications is running at approximately 10% per annum.

(b) We have been converting subscriptions for materials to news items where possible. This means that we do not pay for a full year up front but, instead, pay for the material as delivered. This gives much greater flexibility in cancelling materials part way though the year.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75179]

Chris Grayling: The numbers and values awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are detailed in the following table.

	Contracts awarded to SME's	*Total value (£)*
May 2010	0	0
June 2010	3	117,400
July 2010	1	207,507
August 2010	3	373,497
September 2010	2	12,250,000
October 2010	5	43,755,183
November 2010	0	0
December 2010	0	0
January 2011	5	283,490
February 2011	3	60,479
March 2011	1	8,000
April 2011	1	10,260
May 2011	2	3,764,000
June 2011	8	[1]499,624,060
July 2011	0	0
August 2011	0	0
September 2011	0	0
Total	34	560,453,876

[1] Including six Work programme contracts.

Notes:

1. DWP cannot break its supplier base into the distinct small, medium and large classifications required for this PQ.
2. We do have a limited classification of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's). This SME classification is used in the response above.
3. DWP awarded 1,129 contracts in total in this period (of which, CIT low level contracts total 598). SME suppliers represent 3.01% of the overall total.
4. Of the 1,129 contracts, we have 356 contracts where the supplier's SME status is unknown.
5. The DWP also contracts with a number of prime suppliers who are supported by a high number of SMEs. The Department is currently working with these suppliers on how best to track the volume of business that flows through prime suppliers to SMEs.
6. The data includes DWP and its NDPB's.
7. The data is extracted from the BMO Contracts database using the contract start date as the filter.
8. Some contracts have a nil value because there is no firm contractual commitment to spend.
9. The period covered by this response is 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75181]

Chris Grayling: The table provides a month by month breakdown of the contract opportunities and values published by DWP on Contracts Finder from May 2010 to September 2011. DWP began to publish data to Contracts Finder from October 2010 onwards, as required by the Government's transparency policy.

There is no present capability to highlight contract awards to Third Sector Organisations (TSO's) on Contracts Finder. While we have visibility on a high number of

TSO's in our wider supplier base, we have not yet completed work to link the Contracts Finder data to our internal supplier records. For that reason, we are presently unable to say how many opportunities in the period have been awarded to Third Sector Organisations.

Of the 170 published opportunities, 23 (13.5%) were considered suitable for an SME business response. Of the 23 SME suitable opportunities, 13 (56.5%) were awarded to SME businesses.

	Month	*Opportunities*	*Value (£)*
2010	May	0	0
	June	0	0
	July	0	0
	August	0	0
	September	0	0
	October	4	0
	November	1	0
	December	4	230,000
2011	January	0	0
	February	12	47,417,701
	March	13	52,035,200
	April	8	22,938,950
	May	15	4,637,940
	June	12	68,194,773
	July	71	3,480,325,630
	August	13	95,776,903
	September	17	235,061,614
	Total	170	4,006,618,711

Employment: Vacancies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of job vacancies in each local authority area. [76103]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus vacancies will represent only a proportion of the total vacancies available in each area, as further vacancies will arise through other recruitment channels. Moreover, this proportion will vary between local authority areas as Jobcentre Plus's market share is not geographically uniform.

A table which sets out for each local authority area (i) the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and (ii) the number of live unfilled job vacancies in September 2011[1] has been placed in the Library.

[1] The Office for National Statistics' measure of total vacancies in the economy is not available at local authority level, and Jobcentre Plus vacancy figures are not available for Northern Ireland.

Housing Benefit

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households have received annual housing benefit payments in excess of £50,000 *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London in the latest period for which figures are available. [75906]

Steve Webb: Information on the total annual amount received by individual households is not available. In July 2011, around 150 households were receiving a weekly housing benefit award equivalent to an annualised value of over £50,000. All of these households were in London.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract, July 2011

Local Government Finance

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to each local authority to meet the cost of council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and what the percentage change was in such payments *(a)* year on year and *(b)* over the five year period. [74453]

Steve Webb: The available information on payments in respect of council tax benefit paid to claimants has been placed in the Library. Information on payments in respect of local authority costs of administration is not separately available for council tax benefit.

Public Service Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement; [74811]

(2) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement. [74787]

Chris Grayling: Given the scale of welfare reform in my Department, with the planned introduction of universal credit and personal independence payments in 2013, I believe the delivery and financial risks mean that this is not the appropriate time to consider mutualisation as a service delivery option. However, my Department continues to engage with Cabinet Office which has overall responsibility for developing the provision of public service mutuals/right to provide across the public sector.

Social Fund

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that his proposals to decentralise the Social Fund do not reduce the availability of the Social Fund to vulnerable clients. [76625]

Steve Webb: We are not decentralising the Social Fund; we are abolishing the discretionary elements of the Social Fund. New support to replace Community Care Grants and general living expenses Crisis Loans will be administered by local authorities in England and devolved to Scotland and Wales.

The design of the new local provision will be for individual local authorities and the Administrations in Scotland and Wales. It is expected that the new assistance will be aligned with existing services. My officials are working closely with local authorities and the devolved Administrations to support them in developing their services.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that his proposals to decentralise the Social Fund do not result in *(a)* ineffective targeting of support and *(b)* geographical inequalities in accessing assistance. [76626]

Steve Webb: We are not decentralising the Social Fund; we are abolishing the discretionary elements of the Social Fund. New support to replace Community Care Grants and general living expenses Crisis Loans will be administered by local authorities in England and devolved to Scotland and Wales.

Local authorities' local knowledge, broad responsibilities and experience of benefits administration put them in an ideal position to refine and deliver the successor schemes to Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans.

Local design and delivery means that the new providers will have the flexibility to design and deliver the new support in a way that best fits local circumstances and needs and aligns with existing welfare services and can be targeted at those groups and individuals who need it the most.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of local authorities to administer the Social Fund. [76627]

Steve Webb: Local authorities will not be administering the Social Fund. The discretionary elements of the Fund are being abolished and new support to replace Community Care Grants and general living expenses Crisis Loans will be administered by local authorities in England and by the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Over the summer my officials have spoken to over 50 English local authorities to discuss their early planning for the new local Welfare Assistance, including local authority capacity. The emerging evidence suggests that most local authorities are looking to align this function with existing services.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against decisions made on Social Fund applications there were in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [76731]

Steve Webb: No information is available for Coventry.

Discretionary Social Fund payments (Community Care Grants; Budgeting Loans and Crisis Loans) do not carry a right of appeal. Applicants may request a review. Second tier reviews are carried out by the Independent Review Service. Decisions on applications to the Regulated Social Fund (Cold Weather Payments; Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants) do carry a right of appeal.

Information for Great Britain for appeals and for reviews by the Independent Review Service are in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of appeals*	*Number of reviews*
2006-07	3,730	23,060
2007-08	3,920	18,740
2008-09	5,020	28,610
2009-10	4,670	49,090
2010-11	4,850	52,030

Notes:

1. The number of appeals is the number received by the Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal.

2. Figures for the number of appeals are based on the appeals for Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants.

3. Figures for the number of reviews are based on the number of applications for Social Fund Inspector (SFI) review.

4. The number of reviews are based on the total number of reviews for Community Care Grants, Budgeting Loans and Crisis Loans.

5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pension's Annual Report on the Social Funds.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Department is taking to improve social mobility; and if he will make a statement. [76606]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Improving social mobility is the principal goal of the Government's social policy. It is central to my vision of a fair, open society where no-one is prevented from fulfilling their potential by the circumstances of their birth and where skills, talent and hard work are what counts in determining success.

Published in April 2011, the Government's Social Mobility Strategy—"Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility"—aims to tackle unfairness at every stage of life with specific measures to improve social mobility. I chair a group of key Ministers to supervise delivery of this strategy.

The strategy also sets out robust mechanisms to underpin our commitments on social mobility. This includes a set of key indicators to help us track progress, and the creation of a new Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission to hold the Government to account.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mopani Copper Mines, Zambia

3. **Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the Mopani copper mines in Mufulira, Zambia. [76679]

Mr O'Brien: The European Investment Bank has raised this matter with officials from my Department and from the Treasury. The EIB informed us and other EU member states of allegations of tax evasion shortly after they became public in February this year. The EIB's independent inspector general is investigating the allegations and a final report is expected before the end of the year.

Female Genital Mutilation

11. **Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on steps to eradicate female genital mutilation in developing countries. [76688]

Mr O'Brien: The Government condemns female genital mutilation as an extreme violation of human rights. DFID supports measures to reduce female genital mutilation through our funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and through our support to non-governmental organisations such as the Population Council.

Cameroon

13. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of education in Cameroon. [76690]

Mr O'Brien: The most recent data on education in Cameroon is set out in the 2011 Education for All Global Monitoring Report. This shows that net enrolment in primary education in 2008 was 88% of the school-age population in Cameroon, above the average of 76% for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole. The Bilateral Aid Review in January this year confirmed the decision originally made in 2008 to close the UK's bilateral aid programme in Cameroon. UK aid will continue to reach Cameroon through our contributions to the multilateral development organisations, including the World Bank, EU and African Development Bank.

Lesotho

14. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the development needs of Lesotho. [76691]

Mr O'Brien: Lesotho has significant development needs, particularly in the area of HIV and AIDS. DFID's bilateral programme to Lesotho has delivered impressive results in this area, reducing HIV prevalence in its important garment factories from 37% to 27% in just three years.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding he is providing for capacity building work in Burma. [76759]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK does not have a specific allocation for capacity building in Burma. A number of Department for International Development programmes in Burma include the provision of capacity building for Burmese non-governmental organisations as well as training for individuals such as farmers, community teachers, and health staff and volunteers responsible for the direct delivery of health services. DFID does not provide capacity building for the Burmese central government.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure the effective delivery of aid to Burma. [76774]

Mr Duncan: In all countries where the Department for International Development (DFID) operates, the effectiveness of spending is maximised by: identifying the sectors and areas where DFID can have the greatest impact; preparing detailed business cases for each project which focus particularly on expected results and value for money; regularly monitoring and evaluating projects; and working closely with the organisations which implement projects and receiving feedback from project beneficiaries.

In Burma, UK aid is delivered through UN agencies and non-governmental organisations. DFID takes close account of the ability of recipient organisations to meet project objectives and to account properly for aid funds.

Commonwealth: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by how much he plans to change the level of aid to each Commonwealth country in 2011-12. [74925]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There has been a significant increase in the allocations of aid to Commonwealth countries. Overall support to Commonwealth countries was 35% in 2009-10 under the previous Government but our plans highlight that in 2013-14 this will move to 56%.

Full details of the level of aid provided to each Commonwealth country in the years from 2006-07 to 2010-11 is set out in the recently published Statistics In Development. See the following website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2011/SID-2011-Tables-Index

The relevant tables are 14.1 to 14.5 which sets out the UK's expenditure by country recipient for each year within this period.

In 2010-11 the Department for International Development conducted a review of its bilateral aid programme. The results of this are published on the external website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/MAR/FINAL_BAR%20TECHNICAL%20REPORT.pdf

Annex F sets out indicative budgets for each country from 2010-11 through to 2014-15. The average increase in allocations for the 14 priority countries in the Commonwealth, compared to levels of aid in 2010-11 is 10%.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [76383]

Mr O'Brien: The following table shows the number of staff who received a non-consolidated performance payment in each of the financial years requested.

Financial year[1]	*Number of staff receiving a performance award*
2007-08	1,031
2008-09	[2]72
2009-10	1,380
2010-11	1,609
2011-12	1,506

[1] Payments made are for the financial year indicated but relate to performance achieved in the previous reporting year.

[2] DFID did not operate a non-consolidated reward scheme for staff below the SCS in 2008-09.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75153]

Mr O'Brien: The Contracts Finder website went live for all Government contract opportunities on 11 February 2011. The Department for International Development (DFID) has advertised 53 new tenders on Contracts Finder from 11 February to date. All tenders were posted to the European Union (EU) portal, Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) and simultaneously to Contracts Finder via a link established by Cabinet Office.

Of the 53 tenders: eight contracts have since been awarded; seven contracts with a total value of £30 million and one framework with an estimated value of £160 million. Of the seven contracts awarded: one was awarded to a third sector organisation at a value of £3 million (10%); three contracts have been awarded to suppliers registered with DFID as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at a value of £23.5 million (78%). The framework was awarded to seven suppliers, of which two are registered with DFID as SMEs.

Only live tenders are retained on Contracts Finder and TED. A breakdown of advertised tenders per month sent from DFID, since February 2011 is as follows:

	Number
February	7
March	6
April	1
May	3
June	4
July	4
August	8
September	11
October	9

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [76394]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not have a legal section. DFID seeks legal advice from the following:

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Legal Advisers (FCO Legal)

Crown Agents Legal (CA Legal)

Office of the Solicitor to the Advocate General (OSAG).

Libya: Armed Conflict

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the humanitarian and stabilisation situation in Libya. [76682]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The liberation of Libya offers immense opportunities but there will undoubtedly be challenges. The UK Government were one of the first to provide vital humanitarian support to those affected in the early stage of the conflict in Libya. The humanitarian situation is improving as access is secured, but there are still displaced people. Libyan authorities, supported by the United Nations and humanitarian agencies, are leading in providing assistance to those affected including basic supplies such as food, water and medicines.

The National Transitional Council has demonstrated strong leadership of the stabilisation agenda and it is apparent that people of Libya are making good progress towards building themselves a strong and democratic future. There is still work that remains to be done, however, and the UK has provided support in the critical areas of policing and public financial management. We continue to stand ready to support stabilisation and humanitarian efforts under the leadership of the Libyans and the international co-ordination of the United Nations.

Libya: Politics and Government

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian and stabilisation situation in Libya. [76758]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The liberation of Libya offers immense opportunities but there will undoubtedly be challenges. The UK Government were one of the first to provide vital humanitarian support to those affected in the early stage of the conflict in Libya. The humanitarian situation is improving as access is secured, but there are still displaced people. Libyan authorities, supported by the United Nations and humanitarian agencies, are leading in providing assistance to those affected including basic supplies such as food, water and medicines.

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Overseas Aid: Fraud

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent officials of his Department responsible for fraud investigation are based in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* Africa, *(c)* North America, *(d)* South America and *(e)* Asia. [76666]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has five FTE UK-based officials responsible for investigations based in the Counter Fraud Unit (CFU) in the UK. There are no DFID officials who investigate fraud based permanently in Africa, the Americas or Asia.

DFID uses external specialist investigators to investigate the majority of fraud allegations, coordinated by a network of 17 fraud liaison officers (FLOs) based in offices in Africa and Asia, and overseen and supported by the CFU. The FLOs also help local DFID offices to manage fraud risks in their programmes, systems and processes.

Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the prevalence of *(a)* multidrug resistant tuberculosis and *(b)* extremely drug resistant tuberculosis. [74195]

Mr O'Brien: The emergence of drug resistant strains of tuberculosis (TB) poses a serious threat to TB control. Improving basic TB control is critical to prevent the further spread of drug resistant tuberculosis. Our three priorities are to help increase access to and use effective diagnosis and treatment of TB; to invest in research and product development into more effective vaccines and diagnosis and treatment of TB, including drug resistant TB; and to support countries to strengthen health systems to deliver quality TB programmes. We do this through our support to UNITAID, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and our research and bilateral support.

The UK Government have made a 20 year commitment to UNITAID of up to €60 million per year. UNITAID aims to help expand access to quality-assured multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) treatment and push for price reductions. The Department for International Development is also supporting the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) to carry out research for the development of new diagnostics for TB, including rapid diagnosis for MDR TB for use in peripheral laboratories and clinics.

Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to visit Zimbabwe. [76742]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have no immediate plans to visit Zimbabwe but I will do so as soon as I judge that a visit would help promote development and move forward the prospect for the political transition which the Zimbabwean people deserve to see.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 27 October 2011

HEALTH

Contraceptives

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of contraception provision his Department estimates will be provided by general practitioners through the GP contract under his proposals for the public health service. [76720]

Anne Milton: The Department's estimate is that general practitioners currently provide around 75%, of all contraception in England. The majority of this is through the national general practitioner contract and it also includes any locally commissioned provision by primary care trusts (PCTs). We expect no change in the proportion of contraception provided through the national general practitioner contract as a result of our proposals for improving public health. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill responsibility for decisions on locally commissioned contraceptive provision outside the national general practitioner contract moves from PCTs to local authorities from 1 April 2013.

Diabetes: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent the onset of diabetes in young people. [77056]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 771W.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which his Department is responsible. [77008]

Anne Milton: The current cross-Government definition defines domestic violence as:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional[1]) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

[1] Recognises Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage and so-called 'honour-crimes'. Adult is any person aged 18 and over family members are: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents; directly-related, in-laws or step-family.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent health tourism. [77058]

Anne Milton: Overseas visitors to the United Kingdom are charged for national health service hospital treatment unless an exemption applies under Regulations. These Regulations and accompanying guidance for the NHS were updated and simplified on 1 August 2011. Changes to immigration rules are expected to come into force on 31 October 2011 that will allow the UK Border Agency to refuse entry or extension of stay to visitors with an unpaid debt to the NHS of £1,000 or more.

The Government are reviewing the rules and practices on access to the NHS by overseas visitors. This work includes how to establish more effective and efficient processes across the NHS to identify those who must pay for NHS treatment and make and recover charges from them, including those who specifically come to the UK trying to obtain NHS treatment without charge.

Influenza: Vaccination

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the conclusions of the Health Protection Agency's study on the cost-effectiveness of extending influenza vaccination to *(a)* healthy children between six months and five years of age and *(b)* other healthy people to be published. [76779]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency intends to submit the study for publication in peer-reviewed scientific literature as soon as it can.

Ipswich Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration of each private finance initiative contract with the Garrett Anderson Centre at Ipswich Hospital. [76762]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on all private finance initiative (PFI) schemes is published on the HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

The information for the (single) PFI contract at Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Treatment Centre shows:

it has a capital cost of £36 million and reached financial close in March 2006;

the estimated annual unitary payment from the trust to the private sector contractor was £3.2 million for 20010-11; and

the operational period under the contract is 30 years (the new treatment centre opened in June 2008).

Postnatal Depression: Huddersfield

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess recent trends in rates of women suffering from post-natal depression in Huddersfield. [76981]

Anne Milton: Most women diagnosed with post-natal depression are treated in primary care. Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses in primary care. Reliable data are not available about the number of women with post-natal depression.

Primary Care Trusts: Empty Property

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for property owned by primary care trusts following their closure. [77005]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, primary care trusts (PCTs) will be abolished in April 2013. The Department announced on 4 August 2011 that aspirant community foundation trusts, other national health service trusts, and foundation trusts are to be given the opportunity to acquire part(s) of the PCT estate deemed "service critical clinical infrastructure". The relevant guidance is available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_129008

PCTs have been working with NHS providers to agree the portfolio of properties that will transfer to them. Proposed lists are with strategic health authorities for approval at present. It is expected that the Department will sign off these provisional lists by 15 December 2011, and that actual transfers of estate will commence in 2012.

PCTs will retain those parts of the estate not transferred to NHS providers for the time being. An announcement and further guidance relating to this part of the estate will be issued in due course.

Sex: Health Services

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what powers his Department will have in respect of a local authority which opts not to commission abortion services after the implementation of his proposed NHS reforms; [76721]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that comprehensive sexual health services including abortion and contraception services are commissioned and delivered by all local authorities after the implementation of his proposed NHS reforms. [76722]

Anne Milton: It is the Government's intention that there should be a small number of activities that local authorities will be required by regulations to commission, and these activities will include appropriate access to contraception and abortion services.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had about promoting social enterprises within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77022]

Paul Burstow: The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley) has promoted social enterprise by announcing the third wave of Right to Request in September 2010. In response to the announcement by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) of a cross-Government Right to Provide, the Secretary of State also launched a Right to Provide for national health service and social care staff in March 2011. To support social enterprises in health and social care, the Secretary of State announced the extension of the Social Enterprise Investment Fund for 2011-12.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74986]

Norman Baker: The average cost of processing the payment of an invoice for the Department is £4.57 (the previous year cost was £4.99).

In determining the average cost of processing an invoice, the cost is calculated by taking the staff costs for those staff who are solely involved in invoice processing and dividing it by the total number of invoices paid. The calculation does not take into account accommodation and IT/equipment costs.

The average proportion of invoices settled electronically and by cheque for the Department is:

Electronic—96.2%

Cheque—3.8%

Departmental Magazine

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department produces a staff magazine; and with what frequency. [72810]

Norman Baker: The majority of DFT and DFT agency staff communications are electronic publications produced in-house to reduce costs and paper consumption. A small number of print publications are produced for front line staff who work out of the office without ready access to the IT systems.

The following table gives the titles and frequency of print publications:

Department/Agency	*Magazine*	*Frequency*
Driving Standards Agency	The Standard (printed magazine)	Every other month
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	Licence (electronic with small print run)	Monthly
Highways Agency	Networks (electronic with small print run)	Monthly

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75166]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has awarded seven contracts directly to third sector organisations since May 2010. Details of these contracts are shown in the following table:

Month	*Number of contracts*	*Value (£)*
June 2010	1	10,000
July 2010	2	36,500
February 2011	2	3,100
March 2011	1	700
April 2011	1	4,180

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts her Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if she will make a statement. [75169]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has advertised 122 contracts on the Contracts Finder website since May 2010.

The number, value and proportion awarded to third sector organisations and small businesses are shown in the following table:

Month	*Number of contracts*	*Value (£)*	*Proportion to Third Sector (£)*	*Proportion to Small Businesses (£)*
May 2010	1	1,500,000	0	0
December 2010	1	0	0	0
February 2011	8	173,000	21,625	21,625
March 2011	10	64,935,862	0	0
April 2011	4	151,000	0	0
May 2011	4	202,246	0	0
June 2011	21	44,880,000	0	103,626
July 2011	29	3,096,492	0	0
August 2011	22	17,189,850	0	0
September 2011	22	3,296,072	22,715	0

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition of domestic violence her Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which her Department is responsible. [77002]

Norman Baker: In 2004, the Government introduced a single definition of domestic violence replacing the previous 14 different definitions in use across government and the public sector. The current cross-government definition defines domestic violence as "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality" and this definition is used in my Department's Staff Handbook. There are no qualifications to the definition.

Invalid Vehicles: Safety

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in considering responses to its consultation on proposed changes to the law governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs; and whether she has considered implementing additional requirements to make mobility vehicles more conspicuous for the purposes of improving the safety of the mobility vehicle user and other road users. [75513]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* The Department's full response to the consultation will be published as soon as possible. Following careful consideration and analysis of all the responses received, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the industry and user group representatives on the following issues:

options for training and incentives for vehicle users to take up training;

a possible minimum eyesight requirement and incentives for users to meet these requirements;

the case for increasing the unladen weight limit for powered wheelchairs only;

the carriage of mobility scooters on public transport;

improved guidance and information for mobility vehicle users; and

replacing the legal term "invalid carriage" with a more suitable and contemporary term, and a review of how current legislation could be better enforced.

Any improved safety measures will need to be considered in relation to the aims of the Red Tape Challenge.

The Highway Code reminds users of the need to be conspicuous and this advice will be reiterated in any guidance and information produced by my Department.

Railways: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many de-icing vehicles she estimates will be available for use on the third-rail electrified network on 1 November 2011. [76801]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* The following table details the number of third rail treatment trains that will be available this year compared to last year.

	2010-11	*2011-12*
GLV[1]	Two available from 1 December 2010	Three available from 1 November 2011
MPV[2]	16 available from 1 December 2010	16 available from 1 December 2011 then 21 available from 1 February 2012
SITT[3]	None available	Six available from 1 December 2011
Cl 375[4]	None available	20 Class 375 vehicles capable of delivering anti-ice treatment while operating in passenger service will be available from 1 November 2011

[1] GLV (Gatwick Luggage Van)—Provides anti-icing and de-icing capability.

[2] MPV (Multi-Purpose Vehicle)—Provides an anti-icing capability.

[3] SITT (Snow and Ice Treatment Trains)—Provides a heavy duty snow and ice clearance capability.

[4] Cl 375 (Modified Southeastern Class 375 Electrostar train). The train has been modified to apply anti-icing fluid to the conductor rail while in normal passenger service.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on which train operating companies have arrangements to carry emergency blankets and supplies on trains during periods of severe winter weather. [76802]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* The Department does not collect information on train operating companies' arrangements to carry emergency blankets and supplies on trains during periods of severe winter weather. This is an operational matter for the companies. However we are aware that some companies such as Southeastern do hold equipment such as foil blankets for use in such eventualities. If he is concerned about any particular train operating company, the hon. Member may wish to take this up with them direct.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Correspondence

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 996W, on departmental correspondence, who he plans to invite to his proposed series of seminars on unemployment and roundtable meetings on the big society; and if he will invite hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies to such meetings. [77006]

Michael Moore: Invitations to the Scotland Office seminars on unemployment are agreed in collaboration with the organisations we work in partnership with in arranging the events, typically the local authority. Hon. Members are invited to seminars held in their constituencies. The invitee list for the next youth unemployment seminar, which will take place in Falkirk in November 2011, is currently being drawn up and is not yet available.

The big society roundtable meetings take the form of small focus groups which allow a range of stakeholder organisations to inform Government of their experiences. The location for the next roundtable event has yet to be decided and the invitee list is not yet available.

Family Intervention Programme

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of the funding allocated to the family intervention programme for families with multiple problems will be allocated to the Scottish government under the Barnett formula. [76160]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

Policy for the family intervention programme is devolved to the Scottish Government. Funding in England is being met within existing spending review settlements, on which the Scottish Government have already received Barnett consequentials.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether mineral extractors are continuing to pay into the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund after its discontinuation; and for what purposes any such payments are being applied. [74928]

Richard Benyon: The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was managed by DEFRA and discontinued at the end of the financial year ending March 2011. The decision was taken as part of the spending review settlement in October 2010 in a very tight spending context where we had to look very carefully across all the Department's priorities to see where we can make best use of available funds in keeping with the Government's priority of cutting the deficit.

The Aggregates Levy, which was introduced in April 2002, is the responsibility of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and it still exists. The revenue collected is part of general Government revenue and does not go into a specific pot.

Agriculture: Manpower

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of the workforce in the farming and agricultural sector is aged between 18 and 25; [75641]

(2) what the change in the number of 18 to 25-year-olds in employment in the farming and agricultural sector *(a)* was in each year from May 1997 to May 2010 and *(b)* has been since May 2010. [75780]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold this information.

Bats

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to protect the *(a)* greater and *(b)* lesser Horseshoe bat. [75077]

Richard Benyon: All species of bat are afforded a very high level of protection through transposition of the EU Habitats Directive into UK law; this includes making it an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat or to damage or destroy a breeding or resting site. In addition, the very best sites for populations of greater and lesser horseshoe bats have been given further protection as sites of special scientific interest and special areas of conservation. Natural England works with landowners within agri-environment schemes to enhance the environment for both the lesser and greater horseshoe bat. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England also provide financial support to the Bat Conservation Trust to co-ordinate the National Bat Monitoring Programme, which in turn provides annual population trend data. The latest data from 2010 suggest that the population of both species is increasing steadily.

British Waterways: Pensions

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what are the British Waterways pension past service liabilities in respect of *(a)* retired personnel and *(b)* staff who it is proposed will transfer to the Canal and River Trust; [75956]

(2) what the British Waterways pension deficit is; and what proportion of this deficit is attributable to

(a) retired staff and *(b)* staff who it is proposed will transfer to the Canal and River Trust. [75957]

Richard Benyon: The last triennial valuation of the British Waterways pension fund carried out by the Scheme Actuary on 31 March 2010 showed that the total past service liabilities were £340 million. Of this, £220 million related to 3,634 members who were either pensioners or former employees who were not then on pension. The remaining £120 million related to the 1,296 active members who were employed by BW at the time of the valuation.

No formal valuation has been prepared since March 2010 although estimated updates have been prepared by the Scheme Actuary for the pension fund Trustees. As at 30 June 2011 the total number of pensioner and deferred members was 3,677 and the active members totalled 1,281. It is expected that all active members at the time, with the exception of those that remain in BWB (Scotland), will transfer to the employment of the Canal and River Trust.

At the date of the March 2010 actuarial valuation of the British Waterways Pension Fund the pension deficit was £65.6 million. Given the causes of the pension deficit, it would not be appropriate to attribute 'proportions of the deficit' in the manner suggested.

Common Agricultural Policy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department made during discussions with her international counterparts on making animal welfare a stated objective of the reformed common agricultural policy. [73848]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to improving farm animal welfare and minimum standards set by the EU are already some of the highest in the world. Most recently, the UK has made significant progress in improving the welfare of both broiler chickens and laying hens. We have also led the rest of Europe in improvements to pig welfare.

Formal negotiations on the CAP proposals are only just beginning, and as yet DEFRA has not made any representations on animal welfare in relation to the CAP. DEFRA will continue to work with the European Commission, European Parliament, member states and domestic stakeholders to press for an ambitious reform of the CAP that delivers good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment.

Common Fisheries Policy

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has made to the European Commission on amending the common fisheries policy. [75280]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government are committed to achieving genuine and radical reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP). The European Commission's proposals for reform are a welcome start but we need to work with others—including member states, the European Parliament and the European Commission—to agree the changes necessary to deliver real reform. In particular, UK proposals are aimed at eliminating discards, decentralisation of decision-making, a more economically rational fisheries management system, greater integration of fisheries and environmental management, and also applying the principles of sustainable use both outside EU waters and within.

Dairy Farming

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential environmental effects of dairy farmers switching to beef production. [75043]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has commissioned research to understand better the environmental impacts (eg greenhouse gas emissions and diffuse pollution) of dairy and beef production systems in their own right, and on subjects (eg forage improvement and evaluation) which are generic to both systems, but not specifically on the effects of switching from dairy to beef production.

"Change in the Air and Testing the Water", the two parts of industry's current English Beef and Sheep Production Roadmap, discuss the sustainability of the sectors and set out some benchmarks for performance.

The roadmap can be found at:

http://www.eblex.org.uk/publications/corporate.aspx

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to provide assistance for dairy farmers. [76215]

Mr Paice: The future prosperity and sustainability of the dairy industry lies to a large extent in its own hands but the Government provide assistance for dairy farmers in many ways.

Through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, Government challenge senior sector representatives to discuss the health and future of the dairy sector and identify opportunities which should benefit dairy farmers. These include exploring new export markets or replacing imports with British products to improve our trade balance and therefore demand for British milk supplies.

We have encouraged and supported industry's development of its own voluntary code of practice on contractual relations for farmers and the Dairy 2020 project which will produce an action plan to secure long-term industry sustainability.

Government and industry are both investing substantial sums in research in the sector. For 2009-10, DEFRA research programmes representing a combined spend of about £16 million were of relevance to the dairy sector. Farmers can access Rural Development Programme (England) funds. SME dairy processors, which may include or be supplied by dairy farmers, should be able to access both the Enterprise Capital Funds programme and the Business Growth Fund.

The Government are responding to the report of the Task Force on Farming Regulation, which contains several recommendations with application to dairy farmers. The Government will make an initial response later in the autumn.

The Government have also launched the Government Buying Standards to ensure food procured by Government Departments meets UK standards of production wherever this can be achieved, without increasing overall cost. The Government facilitated the industry's development of country of origin labelling principles.

The Government are introducing a Groceries Code Adjudicator to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice.

Legal Opinion

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average hourly rate paid was to external *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers engaged by her Department in 2010-11; what guidance her Department uses in commissioning external legal advice; and if she will publish (i) the names of each external (A) solicitor and (B) barrister engaged by her Department in 2010-11 and (ii) the sums paid in each case. [72567]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not keep a central record of hourly rates paid to external solicitors and barristers and cannot therefore provide an accurate figure for the average rates without incurring disproportionate cost.

Where possible, DEFRA instructs barristers from the Attorney-General's panel of Counsel, which is made up of three London Panels and a Regional (non-London) Panel. The rates agreed for each panel are shown in the following table. The panel system is supplemented by the retention of two First Treasury Counsel to advise and represent Government in particularly complex and sensitive matters. The First Treasury Counsel hourly rate is also shown in the table. When a Queen's Counsel is engaged the rate is negotiated on a case by case basis.

Counsel	*Hourly rate*
First Treasury Counsel	£220
A panel	£120
B panel	£100
C panel	[1]£60 to £80
Regional panel	[1]£60 to £110

[1] Depending on experience.

For non-contentious matters, the Department, wherever possible, instructs solicitors firms selected from a panel. This panel has been established under a framework agreement to provide legal services to Government bodies. For litigation, the Department uses solicitors from the Litigation Catalogue wherever possible. The use of solicitors from outside the framework agreement is only permitted where there are no suitable solicitors available from the Litigation Catalogue.

In commissioning external legal services DEFRA refers to guidance produced by the Attorney-General's Office on the use of the private sector for Government legal work. On the use of counsel, Government Legal Service (GLS) guidance, DEFRA guidance and Treasury Solicitors Guidance on purchasing external legal services is used.

The following two tables contain details of the solicitors and barristers to whom the Department made payments in 2010-11, in bands of £50,000 (the first table) and £5,000 (the second table).

Amount	*Solicitors*
Less than £25,000	Bird and Co Solicitors
£50,000 to £99,999	Eversheds
£150,000 to £199,999	Pinsent Masons

Amount	*Barristers*
Less than £25,000	Adam Birkby, Charles George, Charles Mynors, Charles Snelling, Chole Hudson, Clare Hennessy, Collin Thomann, Emma Dixon, Hamish Common, Helen Roddick, Helen Wolstenholme, Howard Shaw, James Byrne, John Jolliffe, Lee Fish, Lisa Busch, Louise Hartley, Marina Wheeler, Mark Cooper, Matthew Orr, Michael Collis, Mikhael Puar, Ned Helme, Nigel Fryer, Oliver Willmott, Philip Moser, Richard Cole, Richard Griffiths, Robert Hodgkinson, Robert Palmer, Robert Wastell, Sarah Moore, Sasha Blackmore, Sean Brunton, Simion Perkins, Stephen Tromans, Andrew Marshall, Angus McCulough QC, Elisa Holmes, Hugh Mercer, James Eadie QC, Julie Anderson, Kassie Smith, Kate Grange, Sarah Ford, Simon Phillips QC, David Anderson QC, Derrick Wyatt QC, Ian Rogers, Philip Coppel, Russell Fortt, Tim Buley, James Maurici
£25,000 to £29,999	Brendan McGurk, Thomas Payne, Tim Eicke
£30,000 to £34,999	Iain Quirk
£50,000 to £54,999	Hannah Willcocks

These lists are not exhaustive and could only be confirmed to be comprehensive at disproportionate cost.

In compliance with the Government's Transparency Agenda, DEFRA has published information about payments over £25,000 on its website.

Details of all barristers who are currently on the Attorney-General's panels are available from the Treasury Solicitor's Department website at:

www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

Dolphins and Whales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* dolphin and *(b)* whale catching undertaken by other EU member states. [75045]

Richard Benyon: The EU position is clear: within Community waters all whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) are strictly protected from deliberate disturbance, capture or killing.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland, Crown territories of Denmark, are not bound by EU legislation put in place to protect cetaceans.

In 2010 around 900 pilot whales, 21 Risso's dolphins and 14 White-sided dolphins were killed in the Faroe Islands. Greenland's annual aboriginal subsistence whaling quota compromises 178 Minke, two Bowhead, 10 Fin and nine Humpback whales.

We will continue to work hard with other EU Member States to ensure the EU takes a strong, pro-conservation position within the International Whaling Commission, and ensure that the moratorium on commercial whaling is not undermined.

Fish Farming

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the environmental impact of the oyster dredging industry. [75078]

Richard Benyon: The oyster industry is managed on a site by site basis and assessments are made at this level. No national research has been undertaken on the environmental impact of the oyster dredging industry.

While overexploitation of oysters could be a contributing factor leading to declines in oyster populations in certain areas, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities byelaws regulate the industry at a local level, ensuring it is managed sustainably.

Impacts to the wider environment as a result of the passage of towed gear on the sea bed will vary according to the level of sensitivity of the habitat

Peer-reviewed assessment of the specific impacts of oyster dredges is limited although evidence suggests the immediate impacts of towed gear use would likely include a reduction in the biomass of emergent epifauna and large infaunal species (should these be present), short-term resuspension of silts and the sorting of sediment particles.

However, as oysters tend to sit on the surface, rather than recessed (as with scallops), oyster dredges are designed to scrape the surface of the bed rather than penetrate it and are light relative to other dredges.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the risk of potential pathogens spreading from fish farms into natural fish stocks. [75079]

Richard Benyon: Government veterinary and fish scientists regularly review risks, They are aware of the potential for transfer of disease pathogens from farmed to natural fish stocks, although studies so far have not found any evidence that transfer in practice takes place.

All fish farms in England are authorised by the Fish Health Inspectorate of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), a DEFRA agency. Authorisation sets out which species may be farmed. A consultation process with conservation and environmental bodies is undertaken prior to the authorisation of a new farm or a change to farming practices. Fish farms are ranked according to the risk they pose of disease spread, and this ranking dictates their disease inspection regime. Fish farms are required to operate to an approved biosecurity measures plan.

Fly-tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the incidence of fly-tipping. [74596]

Richard Benyon: The Government Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June 2011, sets out a number of measures to encourage compliance with waste legislation and ensure that the sanctions available act as a real deterrent to those responsible for waste crime, including fly-tipping. At the same time the Government are taking other measures, such as the development of responsibility deals and the waste and recycling collection commitments, to make it easier for people to do the right thing with their waste.

Government action to reduce fly-tipping includes:

(a) introducing stronger powers for local authorities and the Environment Agency to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of involvement in waste crime;

(b) working with local authorities and the Environment Agency to strengthen enforcement of the waste carrier regime;

(c) considering whether fines for fly tipping are sufficient to act as a deterrent to fly-tipping;

(d) ensuring more effective intelligence sharing between DEFRA and its partners including the Environment Agency, local authorities, the police and other agencies; and

(e) working with private landowners to increase reporting of fly-tipping on their land, sharing best practice and considering the options for reducing the burden for those affected.

Food: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effects of trends in wild food foraging on habitat conservation and biodiversity. [75838]

Richard Benyon: There has been no formal assessment. However, species targeted for wild food foraging are generally common and widespread, and it is considered highly unlikely that present levels of foraging are having any impact on their distribution or population size.

Species known to be at particular risk (including picking in the case of plants) receive special protection through the provisions of the appropriate schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

There are particular concerns about high levels of foraging for edible fungi, but foraging in line with "The Wild Mushroom Pickers' Code of Conduct", produced by the British Mycological Society, is acceptable and unlikely to lead to species declines.

Any proposals for large-scale wild food foraging on sites of special scientific interest in England would require consent from Natural England.

Food: Waste

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the level of food waste. [75947]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, outlines our long-term aim to reduce food waste substantially.

To do this the Government will continue to help businesses and consumers waste less food by sharing insight, evidence and best practice, improving product design and retail and supply chain practice, engaging consumers and encouraging local partnership approaches to food waste prevention. For example, we recently published new guidance for food and drink manufacturers on the application of date marks to food.

We will continue to work with food retailers and manufacturers via the Courtauld Commitment, and will develop a new responsibility deal with the hospitality and service sectors to reduce food waste. We will also lead by example by tackling food waste across the public sector estate.

Inland Waterways: Bridges

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bridges cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways. [75858]

Richard Benyon: A total of 2,888 bridges cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways in England and Wales.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the bridges that cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways carry highways that are the responsibility of *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* other highway authorities. [75859]

Richard Benyon: There are 202 bridges in England that cross inland waterways (canals and certain rivers) managed by British Waterways and carry highways that are the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency does not hold figures for Wales.

Some bridges over British Waterways' navigations are also owned by Network Rail, London Underground and other transport undertakings, and some are privately owned. British Waterways also owns many such bridges. Neither DEFRA nor the Department for Transport holds information on these bridges and obtaining it would incur disproportionate expense.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the need for repair and maintenance to bridges that cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways which carry highways that are the responsibility of *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* other highway authorities; and what estimate she has made of the cost of such works in each case. [75860]

Richard Benyon: The bridges that are the responsibility of the Highways Agency and cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways are subject to a regular regime of structural inspections. General inspections are carried out every two years and more detailed principal inspections are undertaken every six years. These inspections record the condition of the bridges, identifying the extent and severity of any defects in the structural components. Where the defects are significant, plans for remedial maintenance works are developed, and where they are of sufficient priority, funding is allocated and repairs undertaken by the Highways Agency's Maintenance Agents. There are no separate available estimates of maintenance costs for canal and river bridges.

Neither the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs nor the Department for Transport retains information centrally in relation to the ownership or maintenance of local highway authority bridges that cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

British Waterways stringently monitors the asset condition of its structures, including bridges, and applies a risk-based prioritisation of repair and renewal expenditure. It estimates that the annual cost of maintenance and repairs to keep its bridges at a steady state would be £3.3 million in England and Wales.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of repairs and maintenance to bridges that cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways that carry highways that are the responsibility of the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* other highways authorities has been in each of the last 10 years; and what the distribution of those costs between British Waterways and the respective highways agency has been. [75861]

Richard Benyon: Neither the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs nor the Department for Transport retains information centrally in relation to the ownership or maintenance of local highway authority bridges that cross inland waterways managed by British Waterways. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Highways Agency does not hold records of maintenance costs on individual canal and river bridges over the last 10 years for which it is responsible.

British Waterways' expenditure on major repairs to bridges in England and Wales for the last four years is shown in the following table. In addition to these figures, British Waterways expends £205,000 each year on routine maintenance.

	Expenditure (£ million)
2007-08	0.544
2008-09	1.421
2009-10	0.321
2010-11	1.150

International Whaling Commission

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to support the International Whaling Commission to conserve and manage whale stocks. [75265]

Richard Benyon: The UK position on whaling is clear; we strongly support the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling and oppose all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes to meet a defined and substantiated need.

I attended this year's IWC meeting in June to demonstrate the UK Government's commitment to the work of the IWC and our support for the moratorium on whaling. At the meeting, the UK supported the creation of whale sanctuaries and the need for improved welfare and conservation efforts to improve cetacean populations. The UK is also financially contributing to the work of the IWC on the protection of small cetaceans.

Pesticides

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what methodology her Department applies the precautionary principle in Article 174 of the EC Treaty in relation to pesticide approvals; and if she will make a statement. [70772]

Richard Benyon: Commission Communication (2000) 1, of 2 February 2000, outlines the European Commission's approach to using the precautionary principle and establishes Commission guidelines for applying it, among other aims. This communication stresses the need for the precautionary principle to be considered within a structured approach which is made up of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. In the communication the Commission recognises that one way of applying the precautionary principle is through the Community rules for prior approval of certain products before they are placed on the market, such as in the case of pesticides.

Following the approval of pesticide active substances under the EU regulatory regime, pesticide products are authorised in the UK under the EU rules for national authorisations. As part of this process, the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (the Government body responsible for regulating pesticides) carries out checks to ensure the risks that can arise from the use of these products are not unacceptable. This will include an assessment of the toxicity of each product and the ways in which spray operators, the public or environment may be exposed to it. CRD routinely restrict the way products can be used (e.g. specifying dose rates, timing and place of application) to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Pesticide users are also legally obliged to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants. As part of its role, CRD considers relevant scientific studies as they arise to see if they are relevant to UK authorisation, and continues to keep abreast of research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to pesticide risk assessment for pollinators test processes since the publication of her Department's report, "Are pesticide risk assessments for honeybees protective of other pollinators," in 2008. [70773]

Richard Benyon: As pesticides are subject to a European regulatory regime, Ministers are keen that these issues are addressed through collaborative working across the international arena. Since this work was published, it has been considered in an international forum (the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) (SETAC) which is developing the pesticides risk assessment for pollinators (honeybees and non-Apis bees) with a focus on 'non-Apis bees'. This forum recognised that the risk assessment scheme for honeybees did not cover non-Apis bees, and that the risk assessment approaches, studies and associated trigger values need to be further developed. Work is also ongoing with the Organisation for Economic Co- operation and Development (OECD). on 'other pollinators' under the Pesticides Effects on Insect Pollinators (PEIP) initiative. Government scientists and officials are already actively engaged in these major international initiatives.

The new pesticides marketing Regulation (Regulation 1107/2009) introduces a requirement for consideration of the impact on biodiversity and the ecosystem as part of the approval criteria for active substances, as well as other new proposed data requirements. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are to produce revised guidance on aquatic ecotoxicology (including biodiversity consequences) by 2014. Other aspects of biodiversity will be addressed as relevant guidance (eg terrestrial ecotoxicology) is revised or developed by EFSA, and the SETAC and OECD work is expected to feed into this.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in the monitoring of residues of glyphosate and glufosinate ammonium in crops such as wheat, soya, maize and oilseed rape which are directly sprayed with such herbicides over the top of the growing crops and food/feed ingredients; and what the maximum residue limit is for these herbicides for each crop which is directly sprayed over the top of the growing crop. [75810]

Richard Benyon: The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), which is part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), is responsible for commissioning and publishing the results of the national pesticide residue testing programme in the UK. Around 3,500 samples of food are tested for a range of pesticides. All results are published on the HSE's website.

Field crops are not tested. The monitoring programme tests mainly fresh food and some processed food at the point which it is available to consumers on the market for a range of pesticides. The table summarises when CRD last monitored food from the crops listed for the pesticides and gives the maximum residue levels (MRLs).

Due to the analytical difficulties associated with testing for Glyphosate and Glufosinate, analytical research (Project PS 2538) was undertaken and completed in 2009 to validate the analytical methods in a range of food including cereals and cereal based products. The outcomes of this research are published on the Science and Research section of the DEFRA website.

Maximum residue levels are established only for food which is sold for human consumption. However, when MRL's are set for food products derived from animals, the regulatory process takes into account the contribution of any residues from the animal feed.

	MRL (mg/kg)					*Survey results*	
Commodity	*Glyphosate*	*Glufosinate*	*Survey year*	*Commodity Surveyed*	*Number of samples*	*Glyphosate*	*Glufosinate*
Wheat	10	0.1	2009	Grain from farm store	72	Found in nine samples at levels ranging from 0.1 to 0.8 mg/kg	Not sought

	MRL (mg/kg)					*Survey results*	
Commodity	*Glyphosate*	*Glufosinate*	*Survey year*	*Commodity Surveyed*	*Number of samples*	*Glyphosate*	*Glufosinate*
			2010	Bread	216	Found in 23 samples at levels ranging from 0.2 to 0.9 mg/kg	Not sought
			2009		217	Found in 15 samples at levels ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 mg/kg	
			2008		216	Found in 45 samples at levels ranging from 0.1 to 0.9 mg/kg	
			2007		216	Found in 41 samples at levels ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 mg/kg	
			2006		216	Found in 20 samples at levels ranging from 0.1 to 0.4 mg/kg	
Soya	[1]20	[1]2	2006	Soya pieces/tofu	60	Found in 11 samples at levels from 0.1 and 1.1 mg/kg	Not sought
				Soya milk	60	Sought but not found	
			2011	Soya milk and other soya products	80	Sought—Survey ongoing	Sought. Survey ongoing
Maize	1	0.5				Surveys have tested for range of pesticides but not glyphosate or glufosinate due to analytical capability at the time.	
Oilseed rape	[2]10	[2]5					

[1] MRL for soya bean

[2] MRL for rape seed.

Rivers: Pollution Control

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency has taken to ensure that standards are adhered to in respect of consents on package sewage treatment plants under its River Mease Diffuse Water Pollution Plan. [75679]

Richard Benyon: The River Mease Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (DWPP) addresses diffuse water pollution from agriculture, small un-consented point discharges and other diffuse sources, such as runoff from roads or urban areas. It is not the purpose of the DWPP to control consent standards from package treatment plants.

The Environment Agency uses a risk-based approach when assessing consent compliance at package sewage treatment plants. Where a detrimental effect on the environment is suspected, visits are made and samples of the effluent are taken for analysis. If the Environment Agency finds that pollution of groundwater or surface water is being caused, or is likely to be caused, officials would initially discuss that with the permit holder to seek improvements such as maintenance. If necessary the permit can be reviewed.

Septic Tanks

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress her Department has made on its review of the registration of septic tanks. [74936]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and Environment Agency officials are currently undertaking a review regarding the requirement to register. The review includes engaging with key players such as the Country Land & Business Association, the National Farmers Union and water companies etc., to develop proposals on an alternative approach. Once the review has been completed we will propose the way forward, probably around the turn of the year. In the meantime, the Environment Agency has suspended the registration system in England and there is no need for householders to register.

Sharks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of basking sharks in UK waters in each of the last five years. [75044]

Richard Benyon: The UK has not made an assessment of the basking shark population in any of the last five years.

This is primarily due to the fact that, as the basking shark is a fish stock covered under the common fisheries policy, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is responsible for providing the European Commission and member states with scientific advice on the basking shark population on a biannual basis. We collect evidence of any strandings or by-catch of basking sharks under our domestic cetacean monitoring programmes.

In line with the ICES advice that the basking shark is an inherently vulnerable species, and acknowledging that, as fisheries have ceased, detailed information on population trends will be limited, this species is offered strong legal protection both domestically, within the European Union and Internationally.

The basking shark is offered protection from all harm under our domestic Wildlife and Countryside Act, is a prohibited species under the common fisheries policy (preventing fishing of the species) and internationally is listed under both the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

We have no evidence of significant adverse impacts on the species in our waters; however if this situation changes we will look carefully at what additional measures are needed to best protect this vulnerable species.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to encourage the *(a)* EU delegation and *(b)* African group at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to recognise the links between population growth, carbon emissions and adaptation problems in order to reach agreement on the use of climate funds for family planning and women's education programmes. [76908]

Gregory Barker: The UK and EU are open to discussing the linkages between mitigation, adaptation, family planning and women's education and climate finance under the UNFCCC framework.

Procurement

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by his Department using the Government Procurement Card in 2008-09. [76909]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008 as a merger of elements of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). For 2008-09, details of DECC's GPC information was held as a mixture of electronic and paper records by both BIS and DEFRA, depending on which Department cardholders previously worked for. Paper records have been archived and would need to be retrieved and scrutinised to identify transactions relating to DECC. All transactions would need to be reviewed before publication to redact personal or security related information. It would incur disproportionate costs to locate and analyse records.

Energy: Prices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for the warm home discount who will not be paid the discount as a result of some energy companies capping their expenditure on the scheme. [77017]

Gregory Barker: The State Pension Credit (Warm Home Discount) Regulations 2011 allow for legal information sharing between DWP and the energy suppliers to identify those on a subset of pension credit who are or may be eligible for a rebate as part of the Core Group of the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The participating energy supply companies are required by law to provide a rebate to any Core Group customer notified to them by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne). This is not capped by the energy supply companies.

As a result, this winter Government expects that over 600,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit will get a rebate of £120 on their electricity bill. The number of pensioners assisted through the Core Group will increase over the further three years of the scheme as eligibility expands to include those who receive the savings element of pension credit. By 2014-15, Government expects that over 1.3 million low income pensioners will receive a £140 rebate.

For the Broader Group of the Warm Home Discount Scheme, suppliers have discretion over the eligibility criteria they use. They must target those in or at risk of fuel poverty and their eligibility criteria must be approved by OfGem. Those eligible will receive a rebate on their electricity bill. This is set at £120 in 2011-12, rising to £140 by 2014-15. Low income families and those with long term illnesses, disabilities and the elderly may be assisted. It is not possible to estimate the number of consumers eligible under the Broader Group, as eligibility will vary according to which energy supplier the consumer is registered with. The amount which the six participating energy supply companies must provide in the form of rebates to the Broader Group will also increase across the four years of the scheme. It must be a minimum of at least £3 million in 2011-12, rising to £47 million in 2012-13 and £90 million in 2014-15.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to require energy companies to pay the warm home discount to all their customers who are eligible to receive it as part of the core group or the broader group. [77018]

Gregory Barker: The overall spending target for the Warm Home Discount Scheme, set out in Schedule 1 of the Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011 (2011/1033), is £1.1 billion over the four years of the scheme (2011-12 to 2014-15). This represents a significant increase in activity and funding on the 2008-10 voluntary agreement between the six major energy supply companies and Government which was worth £375 million over three years.

Energy suppliers are required by Regulation 7 of the Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011 to provide the prescribed rebate to all Core Group customers who the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), notifies them of, unless they provide an exception, as set out by the Secretary of State under Regulation 8. As a result, energy supply companies will be required to provide a rebate of £120 to all customers notified to them in the Core Group this winter. Government estimates that over 600,000 low income pensioners will be provided with a rebate this winter. As the eligibility for the Core Group is widened, so the number assisted is expected to increase over the subsequent three years of the scheme. For the Broader Group of the Warm Home Discount Scheme, suppliers have discretion over the eligibility criteria they use. They must target those in or at risk of fuel poverty and their eligibility criteria must be approved by OfGem. £3 million has been allocated for the energy suppliers to provide £120 Broader Group rebates in 2011-12. To ensure a smooth transition from the previous Voluntary Agreement, £140 million has been allocated for Legacy Spending in 2011-12, for suppliers to continue to provide discounted and social tariffs.

The level of expenditure required under the Broader Group will increase with each scheme year. It will rise to £47 million in 2012-13, as spending on legacy tariffs decreases, and to £90 million in 2014-15.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his contribution of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 945, on energy prices, (1) whether his Department has made an estimate of the total potential saving to the public if all households saved £200 by switching energy supplier; [77089]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of households that could save £200 by switching energy supplier; [77090]

(3) what the evidential basis is for his statement that people could save £200 by switching energy supplier. [77091]

Charles Hendry: The savings households can make will vary depending on which supplier they are with, tariff they are on, payment method they choose and region a customer is in. But Ofgem, in their Retail Market Review, found that

> "Customers of the Big 6 that were already on dual-fuel direct debit accounts, could have saved between £160 and almost £200 over the course of 2010 had they switched to the cheapest dual-fuel, direct debit accounts at the start of the year."

They went on to report that

> "the savings are higher for customers on standard credit or on pre-payment meters."[1]

Full details of Ofgem's findings are available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk//Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_Appendices.pdf

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[1] Page 10—The Retail Market Review—Findings and initial proposals—Supplementary appendices.

Nuclear Energy Co-operation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has contributed to the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Co-operation in financial year 2011-12. [77362]

Charles Hendry: The Department has made no financial contribution to the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Co-operation in FY 2011-12, an initiative which provides a forum for co-operation between member states on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The UK contributes actively to IFNEC, notably in the working groups.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department. [76538]

Robert Neill: Information on projects that were signed prior to 16 March 2011 is available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

In addition to listing the project name and responsible Department the information available includes *(a)* the capital value of the asset and associated unitary charge payments, *(b)* the date the contract was signed and *(c)* the operational period of the contract.

The Department provides updated information to HM Treasury annually for inclusion and publication on their website.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which his Department is responsible. [77001]

Andrew Stunell: My Department uses the current cross-government definition of domestic violence. It defines domestic violence as:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

I am not aware of any qualifications of the definition in respect of public services or processes for which DCLG are responsible.

Private Rented Housing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals in respect of *(a)* rent levels, *(b)* security of tenure and *(c)* energy efficiency of private sector accommodation. [76757]

Grant Shapps: The current legislative framework is intended to provide a balance between rights and responsibilities for landlords and tenants. We therefore have no plans to change tenure arrangements in the sector. Private rents are market led and, therefore, significantly driven by housing supply. Excessive regulation would drive up rents and reduce choice for tenants. Rent controls, historically, resulted in the size of the private rented sector shrinking from 55% of households in 1939 to just 8% in the late 1980s. Rent controls also meant that many landlords could not afford to improve or maintain their homes.

This Government are committed to seeing a major increase in the supply of new homes where they are needed and wanted. Energy efficiency in the private rented sector is being tackled through measures in the Energy Act including the Green Deal.

Travellers: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary Traveller sites there are in Dorset. [76954]

Andrew Stunell: The "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" undertaken bi-annually by local authorities in England and collated by my Department collects data on the number of Traveller caravans that are on authorised and unauthorised sites in England; it also provides specific data on Traveller sites provided by local authorities and other registered providers.

The latest published data, from the count undertaken in January 2011, shows that in Dorset there were:

46 caravans on sites provided by local authorities and other registered providers;

22 caravans on authorised private sites, including eight caravans on private sites that have temporary planning permission;

16 caravans on unauthorised developments (on sites developed without planning permission);

80 caravans on unauthorised encampments (on land not owned by the Travellers).

The count lists four sites provided by local authorities and other registered providers in Dorset; these provide 47 residential pitches. We do not collect data on the number of other types of site.

The "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" is available in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Argentina

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations with Argentina; and if he will make a statement. [77065]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK values its relationship with Argentina as an important international partner. We have a close and productive relationship on a range of issues including in the G20, on climate change, sustainable development, science and innovation and counter proliferation.

We have no doubt about our sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, and there cannot be negotiations on sovereignty until such a time as the islanders so wish. This position will not change, but we do not want the single issue of the Falkland Islands to dominate our bilateral relationship and continue to look for practical ways to co-operate with Argentina on a range of South Atlantic issues.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are stationed in Argentina. [77066]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are approximately 65 staff stationed in Buenos Aires. This number includes UK based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Argentina: Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in Argentina on the Falkland Islands. [77078]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have not had any recent discussions with my Argentine counterpart on the Falkland Islands. We have made clear that the UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, and that there will be no negotiations on sovereignty unless or until the Falkland islanders so wish.

Argentina: Freedom of Expression

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Argentina on freedom of expression. [77061]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK discusses human rights issues with Argentina, including freedom of expression, within the framework of the annual EU-Argentina Human Rights Dialogue. The last such dialogue took place in Buenos Aires in November 2010.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Assets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of British assets on the British Indian Ocean Territory in each of the last five years. [74246]

Mr Bellingham: We only hold financial records for the past three financial years and the current year. During this period, the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration spent £19,850.38 on the maintenance of British assets on BIOT.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urgently take up the case with the Iranian authorities of Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani who has been sentenced to death. [76956]

Alistair Burt: We are deeply concerned about the sentence handed out to Pastor Nadarkhani. In a statement on 28 September 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), deplored reports that Pastor Nadarkhani was being forced to recant his faith or face the death penalty. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have raised Pastor Nadarkhani's case with the Iranian authorities on a number of occasions. In addition, we have taken co-ordinated action with our EU partners to address Iran's appalling human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for abuses, including Government Ministers and members of the judiciary. We and our EU partners will continue to raise Pastor Nadarkhani's case and insist that his sentence is overturned.

Iran: Higher Education

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities on the access of the Baha'i community to higher education. [76945]

Alistair Burt: We have made representations to the Iranian authorities about this issue. The closure of the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education and arrest of members of its staff form part of a wider pattern of harassment of Baha'is in Iran, including the imprisonment of Baha'i leaders. We regularly raise these issues with the Iranian authorities, including when I met the Iranian chargé d'affaires in August this year. We will continue to press the Iranian Government to accord all their people the right to freedom of religion. With our EU partners, the UK has taken co-ordinated action to address Iran's human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for human rights violations, including Government Ministers and members of the judiciary.

Israel: UN Resolutions

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to Palestine's Prime Minister Salam Fayyad on the need to begin discussions with the Israeli Government to agree a solution in the Middle East. [76983]

Alistair Burt: We continue to believe that the best way to achieve a lasting solution to the Middle East Peace Process is through negotiations. Our focus is on doing all we can to achieve this—putting pressure on both sides. The British Consul General to Jerusalem most recently discussed the issue with Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad on 6 October.

We welcome the statement issued by the Quartet on 23 September. Getting the parties back to genuine negotiations is our primary objective. The statement refers to the parameters set out by President Obama in May, with which we agree. It also sets a clear timetable for talks. Both parties stated their willingness to talk in their speeches to the UN General Assembly. We are urging both parties to respond positively to the Quartet's invitation.

Libya: Rendition

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made a submission to the Detainee inquiry in respect of allegations of UK involvement in the rendition of individuals to Libya under the former Libyan Government. [76805]

Alistair Burt: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), informed the House on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 99-100WS, that the terms of reference and a protocol for the Detainee inquiry's work had been agreed. In a public statement on 5 September 2011, the inquiry confirmed that it would be considering allegations of UK involvement in renditions to Libya as part of its work.

In line with its protocol the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is co-operating with the Detainee inquiry during its preparatory phase to undertake thorough and rigorous searches to identify any relevant information which the inquiry requests under its terms of reference and to provide it in an efficient manner. The FCO has already passed a substantial amount of background documentation to the Detainee inquiry that is relevant to its terms of reference.

Sri Lanka: Defence Equipment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which date the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's recent visit to Sri Lanka *(a)* started and *(b)* ended; which Sri Lankan Government Ministers and officials he met during the visit; whether the export of military, security and police equipment was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [76944]

Alistair Burt: I arrived in Sri Lanka on 21 February and left on 23 February. The Sri Lankan Government members I met were Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa, Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris. I also met with members of the Tamil National Alliance and the United National Party. The export of military, security and police equipment was not discussed.

Yemen: UN Resolutions

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take at the UN and with his international counterparts following the UN Security Council resolution calling for President Saleh to transfer power to his deputy in the Yemen. [76982]

Alistair Burt: The recent UN Security Council Resolution on Yemen is an important step in increasing international pressure on President Saleh to begin political transition. We are looking at all available options on what we can do to further increase international pressure. We hope to see positive political action in Yemen in the 30 days before the UN Secretary-General is due to report on implementation of the resolution. Alongside our EU, United States and regional partners, we will continue to put pressure on all sides to reach a political settlement as soon as possible, on the basis of the Gulf Co-operation Council initiative. A transitional Government of National Unity can then begin to address Yemen's serious humanitarian, economic and security challenges.

TREASURY

Bank of England: Correspondence

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish *(a)* each item of correspondence and *(b)* minutes of meetings between his Department and the Bank of England on credit easing. [76660]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury is engaging with the Bank of England on credit easing as part of routine government business. There are currently no plans to publish items of correspondence and minutes of meetings between HM Treasury and the Bank of England.

Council Tax

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to compensate councils which experience funding losses which occur in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15, as a result of the freeze on council tax. [75889]

Danny Alexander: The Government's offer is a one-off grant, paid at the end of 2011-12, for local authorities that decide to freeze their council tax again in 2012-13. Local authorities can choose when they spend this grant, and therefore how they profile it to help manage budgets in 2012-13 and beyond. No further funding is being provided to support the freeze offer.

Economic Situation: EU Countries

Richard Drax: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that no further funding from the public purse is provided in financial assistance to the eurozone. [76060]

Mr Hoban: The Government have made clear their view that responsibility for sorting out the problems of the euro area ultimately rests with euro area Governments.

The UK's exposure to euro area financial assistance packages is through the IMF, a bilateral loan to Ireland (reflecting the important economic relationship between Britain and Ireland), and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM).

The EFSM was established by the ECOFIN Council of 9 May 2010. This is a commitment that was entered by the previous Government.

The December European Council agreed that a permanent mechanism to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area as a whole (European Stability Mechanism—ESM) will be established by 'the member states of the euro area' from 2013. This mechanism will replace the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the EFSM. The Government have ensured that the UK will not be part of the ESM.

In addition, the Prime Minister sought and received commitments that once the ESM comes into existence, Article 122(2), on which basis the EFSM was established, will no longer be used for such purposes.

Financial Services: EU Law

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what European legislation and regulations have been passed affecting the UK financial services sector in each of the last five years; and what legislative proposals are being considered in the EU that may affect the UK financial services sector. [76438]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* All European legislation and regulations, including in each of the last five years, are publically available for free on the European Union law website, EUR-Lex,

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/

Legislative proposals for the financial services sector which are currently being considered in the co-decision process includes regulations and directives covering Short Selling, European Market Infrastructure, Capital Requirements, Markets in Financial Instruments, Market Abuse, Deposit Guarantee Schemes, Investor Compensation Schemes, Mortgages, Transparency, and a Financial Transaction Tax.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Government plans to use funds from general taxation to provide the initial capitalisation of the Green Investment Bank if he does not raise the required funding from the sale of Government assets; [77012]

(2) what progress has been made on identifying the assets the Government plans to sell to raise funds for the initial capitalisation of the Green Investment Bank. [77031]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are considering a range of possible asset sales to fund the Green Investment Bank. To give information on individual asset sales or expected proceeds from those sales would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide the £2 billion target.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to his letter of 27 September in respect of a constituent, reference 18724/2011. [76953]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the annual revenue yield from employee national insurance contributions; and what proportion of that yield is derived from each age group. [76808]

Mr Gauke: The amount of employee national insurance contributions payable in respect of the 2009-10 tax year was £38.2 billion. The proportion of this yield derived from each age group is shown in the following table.

Employee age group	*Proportion of employee NICs (percentage)*
Under 20	1
20-30	17
30-40	27
40-50	30
50-60	21
Above 60	4

Estimates are based on a 1% sample of NICs and PAYE service data.

Private Finance Initiative

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he proposes to take in respect of reform of the private finance initiative; and what timetable he has set for this work. [76034]

Danny Alexander: The Government have already taken a number of significant steps to improve the cost effectiveness and transparency of PFI; for example, abolishing PFI credits at the spending review 2010 to create a level playing field for all forms of public procurement; introducing new assurance and approval arrangements in April 2011 to strengthen the approval process of all projects; and, in July 2011, including PFI liabilities in the unaudited Whole of Government Accounts to improve transparency. In addition, the Government have announced a plan to deliver £1.5 billion of savings from the existing stock of PFI contracts in England.

The Government are considering further measures to reform PFI and improve the way in which private finance is used to deliver public infrastructure.

Private Sector: Job Creation

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that statistics to show how many of the additional jobs in the private sector that were previously in the public sector are collected. [76473]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 25 October 2011]*: The independent Statistics Authority has powers to produce statistics, provide statistical services and promote statistical research. It provides the top level of governance for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), replacing the oversight role previously performed by HM Treasury Ministers.

HM Treasury, along with other users of statistics, may steer the work of the ONS by contributing to consultations and user groups.

The ONS publishes quarterly statistics on public sector employment, including levels of employment in the public and private sectors. The latest release can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_232222.pdf

Public Expenditure

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of which Government Departments have accrued underspends in 2011-12 to date; [76341]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of departmental underspend in 2011-12 to date. [76342]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility will publish its Economic and Fiscal Outlook on 29 November which will include figures for expected departmental expenditure in 2011-12. The Treasury does not publish a separate assessment of underspends.

Information on departmental underspends are published annually in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper, available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pes_peowp.htm

Public Sector: Pay

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female public sector workers earning less than £21,000 per year in work forces under Ministerial control he estimates will receive a pay increase of at least £250 in 2011-12. [76271]

Danny Alexander: When considering the equalities impact of the public sector pay freeze, the Treasury calculated the gender distribution of all public sector workers earning less than the full time equivalent of £21,000. The results, which are based on data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings published by the Office for National Statistics, are shown in the following table:

		Percentage
	Female	*Male*
Total public sector	65.5	34.5
Proportion earning less than £21,000 (Full Time Equivalent)	77.6	22.4
Proportion earning more than £21,000 (Full Time Equivalent)	58.4	41.6

These figures suggest that a majority of those benefiting from the Government's policy of protecting those earning less than £21,000 will be female.

The Treasury did not calculate how many workers under ministerial control earn less than £21,000 as it is not possible to separate this subset of workers from the data.

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to improve social mobility; and if he will make a statement. [76604]

Danny Alexander: The Government's Social Mobility Strategy "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility" was published in April 2011.

As the Social Mobility Strategy set out, fairness is a fundamental value of the coalition Government. The strategy aims to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

Through the spending review and Budgets, the Treasury has worked with other Government Departments to allocate the funds necessary for them to make progress on their commitments to social mobility.

We are also raising the personal allowance tax threshold to £10,000. The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 increase in the income tax personal allowance from £6,475 in 2010-11 to £7,475 in 2011-12. A further £630 increase in the personal allowance was announced in Budget 2011, taking it to £8,105 in 2012-13. Together these increases will benefit 25 million individuals, and take 1.1 million low income individuals out of tax from April 2012.

Stocks and Shares

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure the regulation of Exchange Traded Funds. [76129]

Mr Hoban: Exchange Traded Funds are regulated by the Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS) Directives. UCITS provides a harmonised EU regulatory framework for collective investment schemes designed to ensure these products are appropriate for retail investors.

The Government are aware of the recent developments in the Exchange Traded Funds industry and the concerns around the suitability of some of these products for retail investors. The Government believes that it is important for the UCITS brand that products sold under the UCITS Directive are suitable for retail investors. We are working closely with the Financial Services Authority and Bank of England to analyse the risks associated with these products and consider what regulatory responses may be necessary.

Taxation

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of taxpayers who will enter the higher rate tax band as a result of receipt of London weighting payments in each London borough in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [76775]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to modernise and simplify the tax system. [77039]

Mr Gauke: The Government are taking action to modernise and simplify the tax system. A modern tax system should be efficient, predictable, simple, and fair. The Government have made a number of improvements to the way in which they make tax policy, with consultation on policy design and scrutiny of draft legislative proposals as the cornerstones. Further details may be found online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
tax_policy_making_new_approach.htm

Specific steps to modernise the tax system include greater use of online filing by HM Revenue and Customs, and publication of the Government's Corporate Tax Road Map, which is accessible online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/corporate_tax_reform.htm

In this document the Government have set out how they are reforming the business tax system to reflect the way that companies operate in a global marketplace.

The Government established the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) on 20 July 2010 to provide independent advice on simplifying the UK tax system. Following the OTS review of the number and complexity of tax reliefs, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in Budget 2011 his decision to abolish 43 tax reliefs. As part of the second stage of its review of small business tax, the OTS will look at improving tax administration for small business, with recommendations to the Government for Budget 2012.

Taxation: Property

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking in respect of property transactions that are not recorded by the Land Registry or subject to a property tax. [74310]

Miss Chloe Smith: Land transactions should be recorded at the Land Registry, unless land law does not require such an entry in the register.

Stamp duty land tax due on transfers at £125,000 or less (residential) or £150,000 or less (non-residential) is charged at 0% and transactions at £40,000 or less do not require a return. The Government have no plans to change the lower thresholds or return requirements at this time.

HMRC are able to compare their records with those of Land Registry in order to identify transactions where a land transaction return should have been received but has not been, or where the stamp duty land tax due may have been under-declared.

VAT: Tourism

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the merits of reducing the rate of VAT for tourism products in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [77016]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made as the data to make such an assessment are not collected.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects to have implemented a minimum price for alcohol. [72989]

James Brokenshire: In January 2011 the Government announced their intention to ban the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT. Subject to parliamentary procedures the ban will come into force on 6 April 2012. It will be a new condition of the Mandatory Code of Practice in the Licensing Act 2003. The policy will apply to all alcohol retailers in England and Wales.

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to *(a)* reduce binge drinking and *(b)* end the sale of alcohol at low cost. [73229]

James Brokenshire: There are a number of measures already in place to combat binge drinking. Among the measures introduced in the Mandatory Code of Practice of the Licensing Act 2003 is a ban on irresponsible promotions and a requirement that smaller measures of drinks are available. The Mandatory Code also requires that free tap water is provided on request to customers where reasonably available.

The Government are also bringing in a number of measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to give local communities the tools and powers they need to tackle late night problems associated with alcohol.

In January 2011 the Government announced their intention to ban the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT. The policy will apply to all alcohol retailers in England and Wales that sell alcohol for consumption on and off the premises.

Animal Experiments

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to strengthen her Department's existing regulations when transposing European Directive 2010/63/EU on protection of animals used for scientific purposes into UK law; and if she will make a statement. [76952]

Lynne Featherstone: The principal objective for the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is to comply with UK Treaty obligations to transpose the provisions of the new directive into UK legislation fully and appropriately. Where this requires the strengthening of current legislation we will do so. Article 2 to the new directive allows member states to retain stricter national provisions in force on 9 November 2010.

The recent public consultation on the options for transposition of the new directive which closed on 5 September 2011 sought views on which measures should be retained in United Kingdom legislation using Article 2. We are now analysing the responses to the consultation and will announce decisions on options in due course.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the frequency of *(a)* inspections and *(b)* use of restrictions on the use of cats, dogs and horses for scientific experimentation of the transposition into UK Law of the EU Directive on the protection of animals used in scientific procedures. [76976]

Lynne Featherstone: The public consultation on the options for transposition of the European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes invited views on the system of inspection which would best meet UK needs and the absence of special protection for cats, dogs and equidae for scientific experimentation.

We are now analysing the responses to the public consultation on the options for transposition. This will include the frequency of inspections of establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and restrictions on the use of cats, dogs and horses for scientific experimentation. We will publish a summary report by the end of 2011.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Government will be carrying out the thematic review process outlined in EU Directive 2010/63/EU; and when she expects the review of specific experiments involving animals with a view to replacement with non-animal methods to begin. [77049]

Lynne Featherstone: Article 58 of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes requires the Commission to conduct periodic thematic reviews where appropriate of the replacement, refinement and reduction of the use of animals in procedures, paying specific attention to non-human primates, technological developments and new scientific and animal welfare knowledge. The Commission is to conduct these periodic thematic reviews in consultation with member states and other stakeholders.

We strongly support the requirement for periodic thematic reviews and the United Kingdom contribution to the review will be considered at the appropriate time when consulted by the Commission.

Counter-terrorism

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on delivery of the Prevent Strategy. [71366]

James Brokenshire: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was allocated to groups working to prevent right-wing extremism and terrorism in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [72822]

James Brokenshire: The new Prevent strategy published earlier this year addresses all forms of terrorism, including right wing terrorism. But it is clear that Prevent work must be targeted against those forms of terrorism assessed to pose the greatest risk to our national security. Currently, the greatest threat comes from al-Qaeda, and those they inspire.

The Home Office did not allocate funds in either of these financial years to any groups specifically to prevent right-wing terrorism or extremism. Some police forces may have directly engaged groups specifically to prevent right-wing extremism.

Crime: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to prevent disability hate crime. [75551]

Lynne Featherstone: Hate crime, including targeting a person because of their perceived disability, is wholly unacceptable. The Government have been clear that those who commit these sorts of crimes must be challenged and punished.

Legislation already provides the courts with powers to increase the sentence for any offence aggravated by hostility towards disability, under section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

However, we are committed to doing more to support and protect victims. That is why the coalition's Programme for Government included a commitment to improve the recording of such crimes.

Working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners, including disabled people's organisations, we are encouraging the reporting of all hate crime. This will give us a clearer picture of local patterns and trends in disability hate crime, helping the police to target their resources more effectively and ensure better protection for repeat and vulnerable victims.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's Inquiry into disability-related harassment sets out a number of recommendations, and we will respond in due course.

The Government are also considering the recommendations from the recent Equality and Human Rights Commission's Inquiry into disability-related harassment.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the effectiveness of the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and what plans her Department has to draw up another drugs strategy following the drugs strategy it published in 2010. [72964]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), receives numerous correspondence on the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Drugs are illegal under the Act because they are harmful—they destroy lives and cause untold misery to families and communities.

The Government's 2010 Drug Strategy is much more ambitious in its approach to drugs under three overarching aims to reduce demand, restrict supply and build recovery in communities. We are committed to reviewing the strategy annually. The first review will be published in March 2012. The current strategy will continue until 2014-15.

Police: Bureaucracy

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of qualified police officers undertaking administrative duties in each London borough between September 2008 and September 2011. [76776]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* specialist domestic violence units and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff working in specialist domestic violence units there were in each region in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and how many such (A) units and (B) staff were budgeted for in (1) 2012-13, (2) 2013-14 and (3) 2014-15; and if she will make a statement. [76453]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The Home Office does not collect information on specialist domestic violence units.

Specialist domestic violence units are normally based within public protection units in police stations. However, it is for individual police forces to decide whether they have a unit and, if they do, that resources are allocated to it.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers she expects to be operating in London during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [77075]

Nick Herbert: I understand from the Metropolitan Police Service that it estimates that a maximum of 9,000 police officers will be needed for Games-related duties in London on days of peak demand during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Police community support officers (PCSOs) will continue to work across London during the Games period.

The overall number of police officers and PCSOs active in London during the summer of 2012 is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Commissioner for the City of London Police, and the relevant police authorities.

Rape: British Nationals Abroad

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information her Department holds on the average length of time taken for rape cases involving a British citizen in which the alleged offence took place outside the UK to reach a conclusion; [75363]

(2) how many files relating to rape cases *(a)* involving British citizens overseas and *(b)* in the UK have been lost by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [75210]

(3) what information her Department holds on the average length of time taken for the case file for rape cases involving a British citizen in which the alleged offence took place outside the UK to be passed to the other country's police authorities by Interpol in the UK; [75366]

(4) what information her Department holds on the average length of time taken for cases involving the alleged rape of a British citizen in *(a)* an EU country and *(b)* a country outside the EU to reach trial; [75384]

(5) what information her Department holds on the number of ongoing rape case files which have been lost by Interpol in the UK in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [75414]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answers 17 and 18 October 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is not aware of any confirmed losses of rape case files by itself or by the Interpol Bureau within SOCA. There is one instance where the original case papers relating to the UK end of an investigation into a sexual offence, alleged to have occurred overseas against a British citizen, were not transferred to the relevant overseas authority. Duplicate case papers have been transferred to the relevant authority in the overseas jurisdiction.

An investigation, supervised by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, is currently under way into how this apparent failure occurred, including whether the case papers were transferred between the relevant agencies within the UK.

Since May 2011, UK police forces have been able to send "Transfer of Crime" material, including rape cases, directly to overseas partners on behalf of the Interpol Bureau. Prior to that, such material, initially processed by police forces, was sent through the Interpol Bureau in SOCA. Once received by SOCA cases were normally processed in less than a week. Allegations of rape would be treated as urgent.

The Home Office does not hold any information on the average length of time taken for cases involving the alleged rape of a British citizen in an EU country or in countries outside the EU to reach trial or a conclusion.

Terrorism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for offences related to terrorism with a connection to *(a)* Islamic extremism, *(b)* far right extremism and *(c)* dissident Irish republican groups in each year since 1997. [74748]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The relevant statistical bulletin does not record statistics in the way requested, however, data in the current edition of the bulletin does show a breakdown of arrests into International, Domestic and Northern Ireland related terrorism. These data are only recorded from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

Table 1.07 of the current edition of the statistical bulletin (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches—published on 13 October 2011) records these offences as follows:

Arrests and charges	*Arrested: Number or persons*
Domestic[1]	138
Northern Ireland related[2]	47
International[3]	1,004
Not classified	32
Grand total	1,221

[1] Far right extremism is recorded in this category.
[2] Dissident Republican Groups is recorded in this category.
[3] Islamic terrorism is recorded in this category.

Offences under the domestic category refer to terrorist activity where there are no links to either Northern Ireland related or international terrorism.

Offences under the International category refer to activity by an individual or a group of individuals linked to terrorist groups that are based outside the UK who operate in and from third countries.

A link to the latest edition of this publication is provided as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/counter-terrorism-statistics/hosb1511/hosb1511?view=Binary

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had about promoting social enterprises within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77020]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Information on a significant number of meetings between myself and external organisations, including charities, social enterprises and large, small and medium enterprises is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Ministers

This information covers meetings held since May 2010.

Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are based in Zimbabwe. [76740]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not publish the numbers of staff in each country where we operate, as this may represent a security risk, especially to our staff serving in hostile environments or fragile states.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department expects to provide to Zimbabwe in 2011-12. [76741]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: By 2015, we plan to have created 125,000 new jobs, provided almost 1 million more people with access to clean water, helped 80,000 more children to complete five years of education and given over 700,000 more women access to family planning.

This assistance is delivered through trusted partners such as UNICEF and the African Development Bank; none of it passes through the Government of Zimbabwe.

The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to provide £80 million of assistance in 2011-12 which will support a range of development programmes that directly benefit the poorest and most vulnerable Zimbabweans.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Broadband

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution to the creative industries of a high-speed broadband infrastructure in the UK. [75743]

Mr Vaizey: There has not been a formal assessment by this Department of the potential contribution of high-speed broadband to the creative industries. However, it is the demand for rich content, delivered quickly and reliably, that is in part driving the uptake of faster broadband, and this will in turn enable the creative sectors to provide the content people want in ever more innovative and attractive ways.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts estimates that the provision of universal super-fast broadband could directly create 600,000 new jobs, with £18 billion added to GDP. The indirect effects could be far larger. California is an economy approximately the size of the UK—it has been estimated that ultra-fast broadband installation there could add $366 billion to economic output and create two million new jobs.

Charitable Donations

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of managing the distribution of donation funding from philanthropists to ensure an even distribution of funds across the regions of England. [77030]

Mr Vaizey: No. The entire ethos of philanthropy is built around the relationship between the donor and the cause or institution they support, it is not for Government to seek to mediate that relationship, nor the funds involved. We are instead working to strengthen fundraising skills and boost levels of giving across all regions of England. We have established a £100 million match funding programme to create endowments and cultivate philanthropy. We have introduced new tax measures to incentivise legacy giving and gifts of pre-eminent objects to public collections. We have strengthened public recognition for those who give, including through the honours system. We have arranged master classes across the country by world-leading fundraisers, and we have published a Giving White Paper. All of these measures will benefit the entire country.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77408]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, the Department has bought no fixed asset with a value of £250,000 or more.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [76385]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has responsibility for 42 arm's length bodies (ALBs) that help deliver its strategic aims and objectives. The vast majority of those working for such organisations will be public servants rather than civil servants as they do not work directly for the Crown. However, there may be occasions where civil servants are loaned or seconded from their parent Department to work for an ALB for a limited period of time.

ALBs have authority to recruit according to their individual business requirements. As such, the Department does not hold information relating to the number of civil servants employed by each of its ALBs, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Regulation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [76455]

John Penrose: The number of statutory instruments issued by the Department in the years my hon. Friend has requested can be found in the following table.

	Total number of statutory instruments
1990	[1]0
1995	16
1999	23
2000	19
2001	17
2002	31
2003	28
2004	32
2005	49
2006	58
2007	65
2008	25
2009	25
2010	24
2011	[2]25

[1] Department formed in 1992.

[2] To date.

No ministerial orders, or other pieces of secondary legislation, have been issued during the years my hon. Friend has requested.

Education

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he is having with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the role of creative education in *(a)* colleges and *(b)* universities in the Government's skills strategy. [77044]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), regularly meets with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), to discuss cross-Departmental issues, including the role of creative education in colleges and universities in the Government's skills strategy.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76360]

John Penrose: The Department does not record the number of times the legal team provide advice to Ministers. Advice is provided by departmental legal advisers on an ongoing basis, as and when necessary.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [76392]

John Penrose: This Department is invoiced for solicitors from the Treasury Solicitor's Department. In June 2011 there were 20 permanent staff and one temp working in the legal section for this Department and its agency, the Royal Parks.

We do not hold this information for our arm's length bodies. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Lottery Funding: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to promote liaison between Liverpool Vision and the National Lottery Fund for the purposes of increasing funding for the creative and digital sector in Liverpool. [76910]

Mr Vaizey: Decisions on lottery funding are a matter for the individual lottery distributing bodies, acting independently of Government. Although I have no current plans to promote meetings of this kind, all lottery distributors engage with the sectors that they seek to fund, and provide opportunities for such engagement. According to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's lottery grants database, which uses information provided by lottery distributors, and is searchable at:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Liverpool has received £14 million in lottery funding in the last two years.

Museums and Galleries: Tees Valley

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered taking steps to protect museums in Teesside that are under threat of closure arising from local authority spending reductions. [76340]

Mr Vaizey: Decisions on the funding of local authority museums are made at the discretion of local authorities, and central Government cannot prescribe how these decisions might be made. However, the Teesside museums receive funding through the Renaissance in the Regions programme, central Government's major funding programme for regional museums.

Until 2010-11, the Teesside museums received funding as part of the Hartlepool Museums' North East Renaissance Hub. This funding stream has now ended but the museums will continue to receive funding during 2011-12 as part of the transition to the new model of Renaissance funding which will come into place in April 2012.

From 2012-13 Renaissance funding will continue to contribute to Teesside museums through museum development support and national projects, and they will be eligible to apply for museum's strategic funds.

The Arts Council, in its museum development role, will work with local authorities to try and ensure people in the Tees valley have access to great museums. In addition, the Arts Council will continue to fund Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art as a National Portfolio Organisation.

Tourism: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people were employed in the *(a)* creative industries, *(b)* tourism industry and *(c)* heritage industry on the most recent date for which figures are available. [77026]

Mr Vaizey: The Creative Industries Economic Estimates, December 2010, indicates that there are 1.3 million jobs in the creative industries and 2.3 million including other creative jobs in other industries:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/images/research/CIEE_Full_Release_Dec2010.pdf

The latest Office for National Statistics figures show that tourism directly supports 1.74 million jobs:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/tourism-satellite-account/2008---the-economic-importance-of-tourism/index.html

English Heritage's publication "Heritage Counts":

http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk

states there are 9,500 people employed in the operation of historic sites and buildings (2009) and 957.5 full-time equivalent historic environment employees in local authorities in 2011. 195,000 jobs are supported by heritage based tourism, according to "Heritage Lottery Fund Investing in success: Heritage and the UK Tourism Economy":

http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/howwework/Documents/HLF_Tourism_Impact_single.pdf

UK Film Industry

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many apprentices are working in the UK film industry. [77024]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information, although we are aware of the successful apprenticeship scheme run by Pinewood Film studios. From statistics collated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), we are aware that in 2009-10, 30 people started apprenticeships in the 'Creative and Digital Media' apprenticeship framework. Apprenticeship data held by BIS is collected and reported by apprenticeship framework rather than sector.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people were employed in the UK film industry in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [77025]

Mr Vaizey: The British Film Institute (BFI) publishes the number of people employed in the UK film industry within its Statistical Yearbook. The most recent of which was published on 1 August 2011 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmtvinfo/stats/BFI-Statistical-Yearbook-2011.pdf

According to the yearbook, the following numbers of people were employed in the UK film industry in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010 (the most recent date for which figures are available).

	Number employed
1997	38,592
2007	41,343
2010	48,487

DEFENCE

Enterprise Zones

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss the enterprise zone bid for Lancashire; and when such discussions took place. [73793]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence officials had discussions with officials in other Government Departments—including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills—on the proposal to establish an enterprise zone in Lancashire prior to its announcement in October this year.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters have been damaged on landing in Afghanistan. [76328]

Peter Luff: Since 2006, 42 UK helicopters have been damaged on landing in Afghanistan. Information prior to 2006 was not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In all cases where aircraft suffer damage, the helicopter fleet is carefully managed to ensure that tasking continues to be met in accordance with operational priorities.

BAE Systems

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect on apprentices at BAE Systems of redundancies in that company. [73166]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence (MOD) Ministers and officials hold regular discussions with their counterparts in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) on a range of issues, including on the defence industry. The details of commercial decisions and their impacts on specific groups of employees are matters for the companies concerned. MOD Ministers have discussed the assistance BIS might offer with their counterparts on a number of occasions, although the decisions are for BIS Ministers to determine.

Business Interests

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage tendering for his Department's contracts by manufacturers based in the UK. [73154]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s first responsibility when procuring equipment is to provide the armed forces with the capabilities they require in an affordable and sustainable way. This is best achieved through open competition on the global market.

Nevertheless, the MOD recognises that a vibrant and self sustaining UK-based Defence industry brings benefit both to the UK armed forces and the economy as a whole. We will publish a White Paper on technology, equipment, and support for UK defence and security later this year. This will set out the Government's approach on these issues, including building on progress already made at making defence and security opportunities more accessible to a wider range of UK suppliers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75129]

Peter Luff: Contracts Finder went live on 1 January 2011 and the ability to advertise contract opportunities was added on 31 March 2011. Statistics for contracts advertised are available from 31 March 2011 onwards, and are given in the following table. Due to these being contract opportunities, values are expressed within ranges.

	Number advertised	
	Sub Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) contracts (£10,000 to £101,323)	*OJEU Opportunities (£101,323 to £400 million and above)*
April	12	25
May	23	28
June	49	24
July	17	22
August	21	35
September	34	19
October	4	18

Since 1 January 2011 32 sub-OJEU contracts have been recorded as being awarded to Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The award of contracts to third sector organisations is not captured.

The Ministry of Defence's OJEU contract opportunities are published in the Tenders Electronic Daily portal (the on-line version of Supplement S to the OJEU containing calls for competitions and award notices), which feeds into Contracts Finder. Tenders Electronic Daily does not capture whether contracts are awarded to third sector organisations or SMEs.

Cyber-Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [75128]

Peter Luff: As we set out in the strategic defence and security review, we attach a high priority to the cyber-defence of our systems. Our forces depend on computer networks, both in the UK and on operations around the world, but our adversaries present an advanced and rapidly developing threat to these networks.

We have established a new global operations security control centre to co-ordinate cyber defence of our systems and we have commissioned a new monitoring system to detect cyber-attacks against our systems. In addition, we are establishing the Defence Cyber Operations Group (DCOG). The group will mainstream cyber security throughout the Ministry of Defence and ensure the coherent integration of cyber activities across the spectrum of Defence operations.

Horn of Africa: Piracy

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on anti-piracy measures off the Horn of Africa in each of the last three years; and what information his Department holds on spending by *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the EU in the same period. [76763]

Peter Luff: Anti-piracy measures off the Horn of Africa are among a number of concurrent tasks carried out by the Royal Navy and supporting assets. Expenditure incurred on counter-piracy measures is not identified separately.

The common costs (ie costs shared by NATO and EU members, which are additional to the national contribution to the operation) for anti-piracy measures off the Horn of Africa in the last three years for NATO and the EU are as follows:

NATO counter-piracy

	Common cost (€ million)
2009	0.327
2010	0.568
2011	0.850

EU—Operation Atalanta

	Common funding budget cost (€ million)
2009	8.3
2010	8.8
2011	7.8

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many maritime assets were used in Operation Kipion; and if he will make a statement. [75662]

Nick Harvey: As of 18 October 2011, the maritime assets deployed in support of Operation Kipion were as follows.

Type 23s

HMS Somerset

HMS St Albans

HMS Argyll

Mine Counter Measures Vessels (MCMV)

HMS Middleton

HMS Ramsey

HMS Quorn

HMS Pembroke

Royal Fleet Auxiliaries (RFAs)

RFA Lyme Bay—Landing ship dock

RFA Fort Victoria—Replenishment ship

RFA Wave Knight—Fast Fleet Tanker

RFA Diligence—Forward Repair Ship

Survey Vessel

HMS Echo

The SSN(T) submarines are also deployed periodically in support of Operation Kipion.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many maritime assets were utilised from each platform during Operation TELIC in each year between 2005 and 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75663]

Nick Harvey: The number of individual maritime assets, by platform, deployed in the Gulf region over the years 2005 to 2010 are given in the following table. The units would have had a number of tasks at different times including Operation TELIC, supporting our international partners as part of our contribution to Gulf security, and counter piracy activities.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Carrier	0	1	0	1	0	0
T42 Destroyer	2	1	1	2	0	0
T23 Frigate	3	5	4	8	7	6
T22 Frigate	2	0	2	3	2	2
MCMV[1]	0	3	3	5	5	4
LPH[2]	0	0	0	0	1	0
LPD[3]	1	1	0	0	1	0
Survey Vessel	1	0	0	1	0	0
RFA[4]—Supply Ship	0	0	1	1	0	1
RFA—Fast Fleet Tanker	1	1	1	2	3	1
RFA—Forward Repair	1	1	0	1	1	1
RFA—Landing Ship Dock	0	0	1	1	2	1
PCRF[5]	0	0	1	1	0	0

[1] Mine Counter Measure Vessel.
[2] Landing Platform Helicopter.
[3] Landing Platform Dock.
[4] Royal Fleet Auxiliary.
[5] Primary Casualty Receiving Facility.

Fleet submarines were also deployed periodically in the Gulf region.

Old Drill Hall

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 868W, on Old Drill Hall, whether his Department had title to the Weymouth Drill Hall prior to its sale in 1994. [76410]

Mr Robathan: At the time of the sale it was understood that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) had title to the Old Drill Hall, Weymouth. The sale was registered by the Land Registry as in MOD ownership.

RAF Lossiemouth

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 878, on military bases, when he expects the more detailed planning for RAF Lossiemouth support for Typhoon operations to be complete. [76407]

Nick Harvey: The detailed planning for RAF Lossiemouth support for Typhoon operations is currently expected to be complete in 2012.

Syria: Military Aid

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK has provided any support to Syria in respect of *(a)* internal security training, *(b)* public order training and *(c)* sniper training since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76646]

Peter Luff: The UK has not provided any support to Syria in respect of internal security training, public order training or sniper training since May 2010.

JUSTICE

Alternative Business Structures

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to lay before Parliament legislative proposals to designate the Solicitors Regulation Authority as a licensing authority for alternative business structures. [76955]

Mr Djanogly: The order to designate the Law Society as a licensing authority for alternative business structures can only be made once there is a body in place with the power to hear appeals against its licensing decisions. Subject to parliamentary approval of the draft order to establish the appeals mechanism, I expect the designation order to be laid in time for the Law Society (via its regulatory arm, the Solicitors Regulation Authority) to become a licensing authority by the new year.

Crime: Victims

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve services provided by the police for victims of crime. [71112]

Mr Blunt: The Government are determined to ensure that services for victims are effective, efficient and easily accessible and are currently undertaking a review of victims' services and compensation. This work includes looking at the effectiveness of the Victims Code, which applies to the police as well as to other criminal justice agencies. We will consult on our proposals later this year.

Despite substantial pressures on Government spending we have maintained funding of approximately £50 million to the victims' voluntary sector this year.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much criminal injuries compensation was paid to convicted offenders in 2010-11. [68977]

Mr Djanogly: Out of a total of £271.6 million paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in 2010-11, at least £15.2 million was paid to people with unspent convictions. These figures only reflect cases where CICA reduced the award due to unspent convictions, which the current compensation scheme says they must do. But there are cases still being considered under previous schemes that did not make such reductions compulsory, so the real figures are likely to be higher.

Interpreters

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what standards in respect of qualifications or experience of individuals providing interpretation services for his Department *(a)* are applied at present and *(b)* were applied in October 2010. [76819]

Mr Blunt: The qualifications and experience required for individuals providing interpreting services are the same now as they were in October 2010. That is, wherever possible, interpreters should be registered on the National Register for Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI). To gain registration, they must be able to demonstrate they are qualified in accordance with the entrance requirements of NRPSI.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which his Department is responsible. [77011]

Mr Djanogly: As a member of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Violence Against Women and Girls, the Ministry of Justice supports the general definition of domestic violence as agreed by that group in 2004, which is:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

This current cross-government definition is also quoted in the guidance manual for Specialist Domestic Violence Court systems for partners, including the independent domestic violence advisers, to determine how they will identify domestic violence cases.

Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 which provides for civil remedies against domestic violence, does not specifically use the term "domestic violence". Under that legislation, orders can be obtained to protect a person "associated" with the alleged perpetrator from "molestation". Molestation is not defined but covers a wide range of conduct including but not limited to physical violence (for example, it would include pestering and harassing a person). "Associated persons" is defined in the Act and covers a very wide range of relationships, including "intimate personal relationships" of significant duration.

Similarly, the pre-application protocol for family mediation information and assessment meetings which came into effect on 6 April simply sets out that if a client has made an allegation of domestic violence (ie they have been subjected to any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse be it psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) against another party and this has resulted in a police investigation or the issuing of civil proceedings for the protection of any party within the last 12 months then that client will be exempt from the need to attend a mediation information and assessment meeting.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill employs a broad definition of "abuse" in providing for legal aid to be available for private family law cases involving domestic violence or child abuse, and for cases relating to abuse of a child or vulnerable adult. The definition in the Bill would not exclude from scope any of the types of abuse covered by the general definition of domestic violence agreed by the Inter-Ministerial Group. To avoid creating an incentive for false allegations, applicants for funding will be required to provide objective evidence of domestic violence, as set out in the Government's response to the consultation "Proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales". The circumstances that would be accepted as evidence of abuse will turn on the application by the courts, prosecutors and other agencies of their existing criteria.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) domestic violence abuse programmes are designed for adult male offenders who are or were in intimate heterosexual relationships when the violence or abuse occurred. "Violence" in this context means any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) and in this context an intimate relationship means a sexual relationship.

Insolvency: EU Action

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of amending the proposed EU Regulation creating a European Account Preservation Order to *(a)* widen the exemption granted to proceedings relating to the winding-up of insolvent companies to include businesses in any collective insolvency proceeding as set out in the European Insolvency Regulation, *(b)* ensure that the provision of a security deposit by the claimant is a requirement in every case rather than a matter left to the discretion of the granting court and *(c)* enable a business subject to a European Account Preservation Order to challenge the order in a court in their own jurisdiction rather than applying to the granting court. [76447]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government's decision about whether to opt in to this proposal will be announced shortly. Whether or not the Government decide to opt in at this point the UK will still be active in the negotiations. The Government do intend to seek the exemption of businesses in any collective insolvency proceeding as set out in the EU Insolvency Regulation; they believe that the discretion of courts with regard to security should be reduced and wish to align this provision more with the current procedure in England and Wales where there is a presumption of the provision of security unless a court considers in the circumstances of the case that it is inappropriate; and they will also seek to widen the category of defendants who can challenge orders in a court in their own jurisdiction.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposed EU Regulation creating a European Account Preservation Order on the UK's business rescue culture. [76449]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government are aware from the results of their recent consultation that the Commission's proposal could, if implemented in their current form, have a significant effect on those companies in the process of business rescue. Measures to improve the protection of companies in financial distress will be one of the Government's priorities during the negotiations.

Kennet Prison

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to convert HMP Kennet to a category D prison. [76912]

Mr Blunt: NOMS are committed to making the most effective use of the estate to support prisoners' needs and are continuing to develop our approach to managing the prison population to deliver this. Any decisions on the future role of establishments, including Kennet, will be taken with regard to this.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what targets for reducing re-offending will result in a payment to investors or operators in each of the payment by results pilots in operation; [76816]

(2) what outcome is being measured in each of the payment by results pilots in operation. [76817]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(i) For the Social Impact Bond at HMP Peterborough, the Government, together with the Big Lottery Fund, will pay for results if the frequency of reconviction events for <12 month sentenced prisoners released from HMP Peterborough falls by 10% in one of the three 1,000-offender cohorts, or by an aggregate of 7.5% across the three cohorts together, compared to matched control groups. If these thresholds are not achieved, no payment will be made. The frequency of reconviction events is the number of times an offender is convicted at court during the 12 months following release from prison.

(ii) The success criteria adopted for the pilot at HMP Doncaster is a binary measure based on offenders' proven reoffending. Reoffending will be measured using the reconviction rate, which is defined as the percentage of offenders that commit an offence during the 12 months following discharge from HMP Doncaster, and which is proved by a court conviction during this period or in the subsequent six months.

Once the results from each year of the pilot are available, Serco will only be able to retain 100% of the annual contract value if the one-year reconviction rate for that year has been reduced by at least five percentage points against an agreed baseline, determined by the 2009 reoffending data for the prison.

If this target is not met, 10% of the contract price will be reclaimed by the Ministry of Justice. If the target is exceeded, Serco will receive an additional payment for each extra percentage point reduction, up to a maximum reduction of 10 percentage points.

(iii) We are running Local Justice Reinvestment pilots in Greater Manchester and in five London boroughs for two years—these pilots are also referred to as Local Approaches to Payment by Results. No payments will be made to the test areas unless demand on the justice system, measured through Ministry of Justice agencies, falls by 5% or 10% against baseline for adult and youth systems respectively. The reduction in demand will be calculated according to a series of demand metrics at the end of each year of the two-year pilot, and used to determine any payments to the pilot areas.

Police Stations: Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* police station and *(b)* court cells meet minimum health and safety standards for use during Operation Safeguard; [76820]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that police station and court cell usage during Operation Safeguard meets health and safety standards; [76821]

Mr Blunt: Contingency accommodation in police or court cells is required when the size or distribution of the prison population is such that it can no longer be managed within available prison capacity. There are no plans to activate these contingencies, but in the event that this accommodation was required, all cells would be required to meet minimum health and safety standards. The providers of the accommodation would be responsible for local operating procedures to maintain these cells at a level meeting health and safety standards.

Prison: Probation

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 31WS, on prison and probation services, what the estimated cost is of the market testing process for each of the nine prisons selected for market testing; and if he will make a statement. [69138]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to provide the information requested at this time as the detailed costs are dependent upon the Procurement Strategy which is yet to be finalised. Our financial planning is based on the last phase of prison competitions. We estimate that it will cost £2.86 million to compete HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall and HMP Doncaster, with a financial benefit to the public of £216 million over the 15 year life of the contracts.

Prisoners: Pay

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the process of allocating the levy on prisoner's earnings to Victim Support complied with EU regulations on commissioning. [76619]

Mr Blunt: Yes.

Prisons

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of *(a)* murder and *(b)* rape are housed in category D prisons; and whether he plans to increase the number of such prisoners in category D prisons. [76913]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 June 2011, the most recent available data, there were *(a)* 332 and *(b)* 59 prisoners under sentence for murder and rape respectively in category D prisons in England and Wales. These figures include those held in open prisons/YOIs and the relevant parts of multi-site establishments. It does not include those held in semi-open prisons or in small (under 50 place) open units at closed prisons.

The numbers of such prisoners held in category D/open conditions will depend on how many of those prisoners pass the necessary robust risk assessment and the availability of spaces in the open prison estate at any one time.

All murderers and many serious sexual offenders will be serving indeterminate sentences. Depending on the minimum sentence or "tariff" and the risk they pose, such prisoners, move through their sentence via a series of progressive transfers into lower security establishments in the closed prison estate. The decision to transfer indeterminate sentenced prisoners (ISPs) to open conditions is a categorisation decision which is a matter for the Secretary of State for Justice. The Secretary of State may take this decision after seeking advice from the Parole Board or executively where the prisoners have demonstrated exceptional progress in closed conditions.

Indeterminate sentence prisoners are normally considered for recategorisation to open conditions no earlier than three years before the end of their tariff.

Moving indeterminate sentence prisoners to open conditions is an important part of the offender's rehabilitation. It tests their suitability for eventual release whilst still maintaining many of the restrictions of a closed prison. Should the offender's behaviour in open conditions give rise to concerns, he/she can be returned to closed conditions.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has recently implemented measures to reduce delays in the process of moving indeterminate sentence prisoners to open conditions where such a move has already been approved by the Secretary of State.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation: Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many qualified assistant chief probation officers were employed in each probation trust *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available, *(b)* in 2008-09, *(c)* in 2009-10 and *(d)* in 2010-11; [76831]

(2) how many administrative and clerical staff were employed in each probation trust *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available, *(b)* in 2008-09, *(c)* in 2009-10 and *(d)* in 2010-11; [76832]

(3) how many qualified *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed in each probation trust on the most recent date for which figures are available. [76834]

Mr Blunt: The figures requested are provided in the following tables.

Figures are not available on the number of qualified probation officers performing an assistant chief officer role. Figures provided for assistant chief officers therefore relate to all assistant chief officers.

All probation areas became probation trusts by 1 April 2010; this included a number of areas merging to become trusts. Two tables have therefore been provided that show snapshots of staff in post before and after the mergers. Surrey and Sussex submitted merged data one month before their merger; figures provided for them for 2009-10 are therefore merged.

Data were unavailable for some areas/trusts within the periods in question due to local technical/staffing issues. Where there are missing data, the latest available figures they submitted at that point in time have been included within the relevant year. This is applicable to Cheshire (September 2008 figures included within the 2008-09 figures); West Mercia (November 2009 figures included within the 2009-10 figures); and Derbyshire (March 2011 figures included within the 2011-12 figures).

Staff in post 2008-09 and 2009-10 (pre-area mergers)

	Assistant chief officers		*Administrative and clerical staff*		*Probation officers*		*Probation services officers*	
Trust	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	5.90	7.90	125.7	122.30	178.2	163.3	157.1	152.30
Bedfordshire	5.00	3.00	36.57	35.95	63.09	61.04	44.88	47.47
Cambridgeshire	5.00	4.00	58.39	49.15	105.2	105	56.47	54.88
Cheshire	6.80	6.80	87.03	80.41	115.02	111.49	118.03	108.99
Cumbria	3.00	2.00	42.31	39.96	60.1	61.9	41.1	40.10
Derbyshire	4.00	4.00	107.4	88.90	138.8	115.3	130.4	113.40
Devon and Cornwall	6.10	4.00	114.01	92.52	193.42	179.57	88.06	87.19
Dorset	3.00	2.90	53.5	49.20	70.7	70.6	79.5	74.00
Durham	4.68	3.68	54.96	50.79	105.4	107.1	83.21	86.21
Dyfed-Powys	0.00	0.00	49.79	43.09	46.9	43.9	57.63	44.62
Essex	9.80	8.00	121.34	120.62	106.05	101.3	207.92	205.81
Gloucestershire	5.36	3.85	50.29	53.02	50.9	52.11	40.15	32.40
Greater Manchester	14.00	18.00	316.02	327.13	480.56	450.56	286.38	258.88
Gwent	4.00	5.00	67.48	66.73	89.44	85.94	62.7	61.73
Hampshire	0.00	0.00	149.54	129.54	191.1	196.68	188.19	172.44
Hertfordshire	6.00	4.00	58.25	52.89	82.89	79.39	86.7	78.69
Humberside	7.41	5.81	120.48	114.22	158.84	152.02	126.8	111.90
Kent	6.00	5.00	105.21	102.05	161.26	141.72	142.18	101.29
Lancashire	6.00	2.00	113.46	110.14	236.8	219.83	132.14	109.63
Leicestershire	9.02	7.00	109.3	105.75	157.34	158.27	186.37	173.19
Lincolnshire	5.00	4.00	61.88	51.41	72.08	64.88	66.02	66.55
London	35.00	45.00	646.83	1058.09	983.06	1017.37	864.19	329.12
Merseyside	0.00	8.00	172.45	179.76	257.57	265.51	223.26	192.55
Norfolk	4.00	3.00	35.75	31.96	93.05	86.16	138.93	123.40
North Wales	3.00	3.00	62.89	60.31	80.22	90.23	50.86	50.44
North Yorkshire	4.00	4.00	55.81	43.19	79.95	241.03	68.35	39.71
Northamptonshire	4.00	5.00	49.96	47.64	83.32	80.4	96.83	93.38
Northumbria	13.00	13.00	142.76	128.09	270.57	72.15	179.29	179.34
Nottinghamshire	0.00	5.00	155.06	139.57	177.28	174.27	116.51	108.48
South Wales	1.00	3.00	146.65	130.33	197.55	161.79	177.54	160.04
South Yorkshire	10.80	11.00	128.78	129.60	224.13	202.34	182.84	176.14
Staffordshire	0.00	0.00	132.35	113.87	158.5	115.34	91.64	71.44
Suffolk	5.75	4.75	39.83	34.66	91.35	85.29	71.58	67.63
Surrey	3.43	—	72.38	—	71.24	—	84.35	—
Surrey and Sussex (merged data)	—	8.80	—	143.20	—	211.51	—	100.73
Sussex	5.80	—	83.9	—	146.6	—	123.69	—
Teesside	4.00	4.00	62.4	60.83	128.08	122.99	98.07	81.60
Thames Valley	6.00	6.00	161.24	156.93	218.9	210.73	253.94	214.41
Warwickshire	6.00	6.00	31.11	29.57	61.24	61.05	38.76	44.33
West Midlands	16.60	18.61	444.72	428.49	467.59	135.46	415.99	394.74
West Mercia	6.00	6.00	103.18	107.37	138.22	436.6	104.16	92.58
West Yorkshire	14.00	8.00	321.3	291.02	359.29	341.3	297.42	287.72
Wiltshire	4.60	3.49	47.81	43.35	62.22	53.01	44.09	40.07
Total	263.05	266.59	5100.07	5243.60	7214.02	6886.43	6104.22	5029.52

Staff in post 2010-11 and 2011-12 (post-area mergers)

	Assistant Chief Officers		*Administrative and clerical staff*		*Probation officers*		*Probation services officers*	
Trust	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Avon and Somerset	8.90	8.90	112.50	116.20	155.60	149.60	160.20	163.30
Bedfordshire	5.00	5.00	35.37	44.33	55.55	53.85	48.89	50.34
Cambridgeshire	4.60	5.00	48.88	46.90	109.86	107.20	54.61	54.40
Cheshire	6.80	6.80	74.91	76.17	116.12	116.55	90.28	88.89
Cumbria	2.00	3.00	40.55	41.55	57.90	56.30	37.30	46.91
Derbyshire	4.00	4.00	73.20	73.20	109.30	109.30	113.50	113.50
Devon and Cornwall	4.00	4.00	85.11	86.13	171.35	131.29	80.19	116.82
Dorset	3.00	4.00	48.60	44.80	66.70	61.30	72.00	71.00
Durham Tees Valley	8.37	8.37	95.89	93.81	219.30	215.54	163.28	162.62
Essex	8.00	8.00	132.42	129.71	104.90	103.60	202.86	197.55
Gloucestershire	1.85	1.85	42.43	43.69	48.53	47.53	28.55	27.94
Greater Manchester	16.00	14.00	284.20	276.13	440.46	434.05	224.48	225.72
Hampshire	0.00	0.00	117.51	130.63	188.41	194.20	164.49	168.12
Hertfordshire	5.00	5.00	50.98	55.60	78.68	75.58	84.26	80.54
Humberside	3.00	3.00	102.44	96.84	149.40	140.70	106.18	100.12
Kent	4.40	5.40	104.19	104.70	138.48	138.19	103.02	131.23
Lancashire	6.00	6.00	105.51	103.81	221.21	218.25	112.05	114.86
Leicestershire	7.60	7.60	98.37	95.59	148.74	147.53	170.92	167.51
Lincolnshire	5.00	5.00	50.21	48.40	68.63	65.97	63.49	61.80
London	44.00	44.80	1061.94	1060.29	1006.01	989.64	367.24	342.99
Merseyside	8.00	7.00	169.35	168.77	261.13	258.15	192.53	190.55
Norfolk and Suffolk	6.75	6.00	97.69	95.75	169.51	168.86	149.24	151.13
Northamptonshire	3.00	3.00	45.30	45.91	86.16	83.46	90.39	93.30
Northumbria	11.91	11.91	134.63	136.07	228.33	231.43	168.19	167.69
Nottinghamshire	6.03	6.00	122.54	124.43	168.23	170.01	115.91	117.19
South Yorkshire	11.99	10.99	73.10	71.02	248.26	240.04	171.46	166.66
Staffordshire and West Midlands	18.11	16.11	530.39	521.23	561.00	556.21	470.09	470.06
Surrey and Sussex	7.30	7.50	146.92	151.02	202.35	203.53	100.00	106.11
Thames Valley	5.00	5.00	148.03	147.84	207.98	203.41	199.96	198.06
Wales	13.00	12.00	268.64	262.53	369.16	365.30	304.74	305.07
Warwickshire	4.00	4.00	32.58	33.12	59.52	59.52	41.46	41.81
West Mercia	4.00	4.00	95.82	95.31	118.97	116.41	93.39	91.85
West Yorkshire	7.00	6.88	316.82	316.77	326.67	315.35	306.50	283.88
Wiltshire	3.49	3.49	47.82	47.62	52.45	52.39	27.06	27.20
York and North Yorkshire	4.00	4.00	55.70	53.53	79.65	76.76	59.13	58.74
Total	261.10	257.60	5050.54	5039.40	6794.50	6657.00	4937.84	4955.46

Probation: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training measures he plans to put in place in the event of probation functions being contracted out in England and Wales. [76826]

Mr Blunt: Providers of probation services in England and Wales will be subject to the requirements of the Probation Qualification Framework (PQF) in the same way as Probation Trusts. This means that they will be obliged to provide induction training for all offender facing staff and professional qualification training for Probation Services Officers (PSO), Probation Officers or equivalent staff. The quality of the training will be assessed by the Probation Qualification Assurance Board as part of the contract monitoring process.

Other training proposals will be scrutinised via the competition process to ensure that staff are competent to deliver services and manage the appropriate level of risk.

Public Service Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74817]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is actively exploring opportunities to encourage public service mutuals across its services.

All such opportunities are being considered within the context of our strategic approach to competition in justice services, as set out in the Offender Services Competition Strategy[1].

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[1] http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/oscs.htm

Sentencing: Children

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children received an indeterminate sentence in each year since 2000. [76707]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons under 18 given a sentence of Detention for Public Protection (introduced in April 2005) or sentenced to life, at all courts, by age group, in England and Wales from 2005 to 2010 (latest available), can be viewed in the following table.

Number of persons under 18 given a sentence of Detention for Public Protection (DPP)[1, 2] or life at all courts, for all offences, by age group, England and Wales, 2005 to 2010[3, 4]

	Sentence breakdown											
	2005		2006		2007		2008[5]		2009		2010	
Age group	DPP	Life	DPP	Life	DPP	Life	DPP	Life	DPP	Life	DPP	Life
10-11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
12-14	2	3	—	1	6	1	2	2	2	1	1	—
15-17	24	25	45	15	55	25	68	23	25	22	39	19

[1] Became available to the courts from April 2005. DPP is an indeterminate sentence available in the Crown court for under 18s. It is the juvenile equivalent of the adult indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP).

[2] The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 introduced some changes to DPPs to restrict its use.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring, 2012.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Business Interests

Helen Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether former employees of the Security Services received approval from the Business Appointments Committee to set up G3; and whether such approval is required for other security work they undertake. [76614]

Mr Maude: Equivalent versions of the business appointment rules for civil servants are in place for members of the intelligence agencies which require senior officials to seek advice from the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. However, in order to protect their identity, the appointments of former members of the security and intelligence agencies are generally not made public, although the appointments of the most senior officials whose identity is already in the public domain have been published on the Committee's website.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department. [76537]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has one private finance initiative (PFI) contract which is for the provision of residential training accommodation and serviced office accommodation at Sunningdale Park, Ascot for the National School of Government. This was signed on 23 April 2002. Information on signed PFI projects that were signed prior to 16 March 2011 is available on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

In addition to listing the project name and responsible Department the information available includes *(a)* the capital value of the asset and associated unitary charge payments, *(b)* the date of financial close and *(c)* the operational period of the contract.

In addition to the Sunningdale Park contract, the Cabinet Office has a contract for ICT services which, although not a PFI contract under the Treasury definition, is treated as if it is a PFI contract in the Cabinet Office annual published accounts. Details of the contract are on page 223, notes 29.1 and 29.2, of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11, which is available in the House of Commons library and from the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/resource-accounts-2010-11.pdf

This was signed in June 2007.

Former Prime Ministers: Allowances

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much each former Prime Minister claimed under the public duty costs allowance in each of the last five years; [76815]

(2) if he will review the *(a)* limit and *(b)* criteria of the public duty costs allowance for former Prime Ministers for the purposes of aligning the scheme with policy on administrative savings in Government Departments. [76835]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* The amount claimed by each Prime Minister under the public duty costs allowance for the last five years is listed in the following tables.

The tables set out how much was claimed for that year. The date the actual payment was made may not be in the same year that the claim relates to.

2006-07

	£
John Major	87,276.00
Margaret Thatcher	96,003.00
Total	183,279.00

2007-08

	£
John Major	90,504.96
Margaret Thatcher	99,554.00
Total	190,058.96

2008-09

	£
John Major	100,204.92
Margaret Thatcher	110,225.00
Tony Blair	169,076.02
Total	379,505.94

2009-10

	£
John Major	103,812.00
Margaret Thatcher	114,193.20
Tony Blair	103,812.00
Total	321,817.20

2010-11

	£
Gordon Brown	83,718.30
Margaret Thatcher	115,045.00
John Major	109,125.00
Total	307,888.30

The public duty costs allowance is kept under review.

Government Departments: Procurement

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which bodies are involved in the Government's Lean Procurement programme. [77028]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is working across all central Government Departments on the Lean Procurement programme. Departments are contributing to the development of the new lean sourcing process, testing and refining the process on live procurement projects, and inputting to the design of the supporting training programme.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by Buying Solutions using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [75820]

Mr Maude: Transactions undertaken by the Government Procurement Service (formerly Buying Solutions) in 2009-10 have been tabulated for ease of reference and deposited in the Library of the House.

The cost of work required to obtain, contextualise and report the data for the Government Procurement Service for 2007-08 and 2008-09 would exceed the cost limits of a freedom of information request or a parliamentary question.

The Government Procurement Service will be publishing any transactions over £500 on its website, starting with 2011-12 quarter 1 (April-June) and quarter 2 (July-September) data at the end of October and then on a monthly basis.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by his Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [75819]

Mr Maude: This Government are committed to transparency and we believe the information regarding Government Procurement Cards for this financial year is most relevant. Central Government Departments have just published any transactions over £500 on their websites, for 2011-12 Quarter 1 (April-June) data. From now on these will be published on a monthly basis.

The Cabinet Office plans to publish 2009-10 data later in the financial year. The further cost of work required to obtain, contextualise and report data for the Cabinet Office for 2008-09 and 2007-08 would exceed the cost limits of a freedom of information request of a parliamentary question.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had on promoting social enterprises in the areas for which his Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77347]

Mr Hurd: As Minister for Civil Society I have had numerous discussions with stakeholders and colleagues in Government on promoting social enterprise.

Work to grow the social economy, including supporting social enterprises, is being taken forward by the Office for Civil Society within the Cabinet Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Programme

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone inquiries have been made to Work programme providers in each of the last three months. [75747]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold information regarding telephone inquiries to Work programme providers and does not require providers to gather or report on this information.

Access to Work Programme

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that disabled people are made aware of the Access to Work scheme. [76219]

Chris Grayling: Access to Work provides vital support to help disabled people get and keep employment. We want as many disabled people as possible to know this support is available. The recent Sayce review recommended changes that will increase the number of people who are able to benefit from Access to Work and raise awareness about its availability among disabled people and employers. A public consultation following the review has just closed and we will be considering ideas and reactions from that consultation and publishing a statement in due course.

During the Sayce consultation period two Access to Work events were held, one in Manchester for Third Sector organisations and Access to Work Users and a further meeting in London for employers of disabled people. The attendee list at both events was extensive and featured many recognisable names.

Also from 9 December 2010, disabled job seekers have been able to find out immediately if they are eligible for Access to Work support by completing a short on-line questionnaire at:

www.Direct.gov.uk

If eligible, they are then able to print off a new Pre-Employment Eligibility Letter which will help build their confidence when applying for jobs and can be shown to prospective employers. This delivers the commitments in the coalition programme to reform Access to Work, so that disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74326]

Chris Grayling: The Department occupies the vast majority of its properties under the terms of a 20-year PFI contract with Telereal Trillium, for which it pays a unitary charge in return for fully fitted and serviced accommodation.

The unitary charge includes works carried out over the life cycle of the accommodation which contain an element of refurbishment that cannot be disaggregated from overall expenditure.

Some refurbishments are not covered by the unitary charge and are funded separately as capital expenditure. This is because it would not be practical or demonstrate value for money for the taxpayer if the contractor were to price into the unitary charge the potential business change volumes.

Any business-driven changes to the estate would fall into this category such as in 2010-11, for example, when Jobcentre Plus initiated the Response to the Economic Downturn project, which converted primarily back of the house space to temporary front of the house space in order to support more jobseekers.

	£ million	*Change (percentage)*
2009-10	56.9	—
2010-11	17.5	-69.2
2011-12	5.042	-71.2

The value of all completed or approved for construction building and refurbishment expenditure not covered by the unitary charge for financial year 2011-12 is £5.042 million, a 91% decrease on that for 2009-10. This covered a total of 52 projects. Full details are as follows.

The 52 projects are proposed and funded by the business unit, e.g. Jobcentre Plus. The business holds the funding and makes the decisions as to which projects are business critical within the funding envelope it holds. The business makes bid submissions for this funding based on its change programme requirements.

The Department has yet to agree future plans regarding changes to its service delivery and any consequent impact on the estate. Therefore changes to the existing estate beyond the current financial year will be considered when such requirements are known and understood.

Building and Refurbishment Projects

Building name	*Project name*	*Cost (£)*
Duchy House, 96 Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 1HE	Office re-fig	29,365.98
Companies House, Companies House, Cardiff, CF14 3UW	Cardiff, Companies Hse—Relocation of 4th Flr	22,568.12
Ontario House, 2 Furness Quay, Salford, M50 3XZ	Relocation of staff (Building to be vacated)	20,758.99
Ranger House, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Guildford, GU1 4US	Guildford—Ranger House—Decants from and Vacation of Ranger Hse	13,180.99
Norcross Lane—Block 6 Norcross Lane, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 3TA	DAPS Studio	11,671.46
Gregson House, 2 Central Street, St Helens, WA10 1UF	Maximise BDC Capacity	2,450.00
Bridge House, 28 Wheldon Road, Castleford, WF10 2JG	Castleford Wheldon Road—MEC Alteration Works	458,245.78
Henry Giles House, 73-79 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 3BQ	Henry Giles House, Cambridge—MEC Relocation Option 2B	264,114.78
Pedmore House, Waterfront East—Level Street, Dudley, DY5 1XA	Pedmore House, Dudley—Relocate Staff from Quay House	253,412.18
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—Works to Library 1NW	106,272.56
Eaton House, Eaton Court, Reading, RG1 7LL	Reading—Eaton House—MEC	89,912.67
Crown Building, Lincoln Lane, Boston, PE21 8SJ	Crown Building, Boston—MSEC Exp—Convert existing JCP BoH office area	82,534.47
Rutland Centre, Yeoman Street, Leicester, LE1 1UU	Ruland Centre, Leicester—MSEC Expan—Create 2 Additional Examination R	60,311.40
Albion House, Northway, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 7AN	Scarborough Albion House—Main Project	43,665.24
Pearson Buildings, 57-59 Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham, NG1 6AZ	Pearson Building, Nottingham—Concertina Room Divider	22,092.00

Building and Refurbishment Projects

Building name	*Project name*	*Cost (£)*
Kings Court, 80 Hanover Way, Sheffield, S3 7UF	Sheffield Kings Court—Modify G Flr for Universal Credit Team Move to Site	21,073.65
Melbourne House, Melbourne Street/ Eastgate, Accrington, BB5 6PU	Schedule 28 costs ground floor	18,090.88
Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham, B15 1SL	Five Ways House, Birmingham—Landlords Costs from JCP Rollout	10,000.00
Wellesley House, 30 Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 1LS	Create open plan floor space for 150+ work stations on 1st and 3rd floors	500.00
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—Installation of CHP SALIX Grant	472,713.21
(York DIE) 1 Leeds City Office Park, 1st and 2nd and 3rd Floors, Leeds LS11 5BD	Leeds City One Office Park—Ground Floor Final Solution	1,250,268.35
Quarry House - Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—Pathfinder Phase 2 Flexible Working Budget	513,967.00
Moorfoot, Moorfoot, Sheffield	Sheffield Moorfoot—Migration of Staff/ churn/re space planning	337,178.00
Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street/38 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 9SJ	Relocation of DWP staff from Argyle House and Fit Out of new Building	213,929.48
High Riggs Job Centre, 20 High Riggs , Edinburgh, EH3 7HU	Relocation of Argyle House Payment Facility	135,974.70
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA	Caxton House—Resilience upgrade to Comms room	65,200.00
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA	London-Caxton House-Install stand alone A/C unit VC room 3.44	59,699.96
Peel Park Industrial Estate-Bldg 1, Brunel Way, Blackpool, FY4 5ES	Supply and fit Glass pods g/f phase 1	58,650.89
Broadlands House, Staplers Road, Newport, PO30 2HX	IOW—Newport—Broadlands House—HMRC	51,394.52
Tamarisk House, 1 Cotlands Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 3BG	Bournemouth—Tamarisk House—MEC	43,097.42
Nutwood House, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1ZZ	Canterbury—Nutwood House—Creation of Examination Rooms	38,074.66
Great Oaks House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1JE	Great Oaks House, Basildon—Create a Disabled Shower Facility	36,548.20
Building 301, Birchwood Park, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6XF	Birchwood Park Agile areas	34,056.75
Forester House, Becket Street, Derby, DE1 1NW	Forester House, Derby—Reconfigure FOH area on Ground Floor	26,420.98
Red Rose House, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 1NS	Office re-fig	24,600.00
Eastgate House, 35-43 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0YP	Cardiff, Eastgate House—Works to 1st and 2nd Floors	23,762.55
Fox Court, 14 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8HN	London- Fox Court—4th floor 3 in 1	19,720.00
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry house—Flexible working proposal Phase 2	18,400.00
Knollys House, 17 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6SR	Croydon—Knollys Hse—Access Control System	15,681.21
Equinox, Island Business Quarter, Nottingham, NG2 4UU	Equinox House, Nottingham—Reorganisation of Ground, First and Second Floor	12,708.13
Summerlock House, Summerlock Approach, Salisbury, SP2 7RW	Salisbury—Summerlock House—Conference Room	10,037.52
Norcross Lane - Block 7, Norcross Lane, Blackpool, FY5 3TA	VC Suite upgrade	9,111.95
Crown Buildings, Laneham Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6JT	Scunthorpe Crown Buildings—HMRC Works 2nd Floor	8,338.19
York House, 31-36 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2ED	Leeds York House—Removal of Wall	5,051.15
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—VC Equipment Upgrade	5,157.03
Cannon Court, High Street, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9AQ	Lymington - Cannon Court—GIS Room	4,843.78
Equinox, Island Business Quarter, Nottingham, NG2 4UU	Equinox House, Nottingham—Window Film Works	3,919.43
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—Reprographics Planning	3,310.89
Griffin House, Bryn Road, Wigan, WN4 8SS	Telephony and Processing Implementation Project—Temporary Screens	2,924.59
Griffin House, Bryn Road, Wigan, WN4 8SS	Telephony and Processing Implementation Project—Temporary Screens	2,117.88
Steel City House, Steel City House West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ	Sheffield Steel City House—European Social Fund Flagpoles	4,698.40
Quarry House—Main Bldg, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UA	Leeds Quarry House—Relocation of Library	978.69
Total	—	5,042,756.66

Leeds Quarry House

Works to library 1NW (£106,272): Refurbishment of the former library to accommodate the Department of Health (DOH). The works are funded by DOH via DWP to ensure fast track delivery.

London Caxton House

Install stand alone A/C unit VC room 3.44 (£59,699): Installation of stand alone A/C unit with local controls in video conference room 3.44. The A/C unit was installed to keep the room at a suitable temperature for the equipment and for a maximum of eight people all day.

Norcross Lane

VC suite upgrade (£9,111): New suspended ceiling and lighting, carpet and decoration, removal of asbestos ceiling (ARTEX) to facilitate the works.

Leeds Quarry House

VC equipment upgrade (£5,157): National roll-out for the installation of video conferencing. Includes minor room alterations, re-decoration and furniture to comply with client's requirements.

Leeds Quarry House

Reprographics planning (£3,310): Installation of additional reprographic machines to minimise costs for photocopying and alike.

Sheffield Steel City House

European Social Fund flagpoles (£4,698): Due to relocation of European Social Services into this building two flagpoles were erected outside Steel City House. Flags required were the Union, EU and St George's. We are seeking full reimbursement of the cost of the flag pole from ESF technical assistance money, so the cost will fall to the EU.

Leeds Quarry House

Relocation of library (£978): this is linked to the above project (1NW) and as such work is on the behalf of the DOH. This was the structural survey of the area to accommodate the library to ensure it was structurally compliant.

Lost Property

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what actions are at his disposal to take against an employee of his Department who loses a laptop issued by his Department. [76960]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions takes data security very seriously. The Department can exercise a range of actions against employees who lose laptops. These range from imposing disciplinary warnings and sanctions to dismissal.

The DWP Standards of Behaviour policy requires staff to look after departmental equipment and ensure there is no loss or damage. Disciplinary action is taken against employees who breach security policy.

Since 2007 we have improved data-handling procedures, including minimising the amount of data put on removable media and introducing encryption programmes for data and mobile devices that carry personal protected data. We have also introduced training and education programmes to improve staff awareness of information risks.

Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department takes of *(a)* socio-economic factors and *(b)* potential revenues for the Exchequer in the awarding of contracts. [76554]

Chris Grayling: The Department considers socio-economic factors in the initial stages of contracting using Sustainable Procurement Risk Assessment Methodology which considers the impact on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), opportunities for apprenticeships, and the implications for diversity and equality as well as for climate change and sustainability. Where relevant and proportionate, appropriate contractual terms are included at contract award to monitor supplier performance in these areas during contract delivery.

The Department has a policy that supports the UK social and economic agenda by ensuring that DWP jobs are not offshored. In addition the Department's policy also requires that any supplier, either when tendering for contracts or wishing to make changes to arrangements during the life of a contract, has to submit detailed proposals and gain DWP written approval if they have any intention of offshoring work or data.

DWP supports the Government target of 25% of Government spend via SMEs by 2015. SMEs are considered to have more potential for growth and are more likely to be innovative in contract delivery. The effect of this policy is more employment leading to an increase in taxation revenue for the Exchequer and a reduction in benefit payment.

The Department's commercial strategy commits to improving Value For Money (VFM) through cost reduction and cost avoidance activity. In line with Cabinet Office policy, pre audit VFM savings for the financial year 2010-11 were £432 million of which £180 million were cash releasing and £252 million related to VFM activity.

The Department leads on the introduction of frameworks which improve VFM for other Government Departments (OGDs) and also leads on cross-government VFM activity through its Crown Commercial Representative.

The use of DWP assets by OGDs also saves substantial resources, for example resource management (RM) system which delivers strategic resource management solutions for the Department and OGDs and the customer information system (CIS), an intelligent IT database which generates significant VFM for the Department and OGDs.

The Department retains ownership of intellectual property rights as part of the standard legal terms and conditions used when contracting. This enables revenue to be generated for the Exchequer (or contract costs reduced) on occasions where it is appropriate for intellectual property rights to be sold. While not directly linked to contracts it awards, the Department also considers raising revenue for the Exchequer by using the Wider Markets Initiative to generate income from its assets, where appropriate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to deliver the efficiency gains required by HM Treasury. [77040]

Chris Grayling: The Department plans to realise substantial efficiency savings over the period of the spending review through measures which will deliver both savings and improved customer service, as well as focussing its resources on key reforms of the welfare system such as the introduction of universal credit. These plans include a reduction in the size of the corporate centre by up to 40%, and parallel measures to reduce the costs of benefits processing by 25% through streamlining and modernising frontline activities. These measures include, for example, shifting from paper to digital based services and sharing information more efficiently within and between Departments. Specific actions to improve the efficiency, ease and speed of the Department's frontline activities are included in the business plan.

The Department will also make further efficiencies through its estates and IT strategies, and works closely with the Cabinet Office Efficiency Reform Group to drive down the costs from its other major suppliers.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76227]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Duncan Smith)

Championed the voluntary sector throughout his six years as Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice and continues to be involved with a number of charities, including as a patron.

Minister for Employment (Chris Grayling)

Patron for the Forces Children's Trust.

Minister for Welfare Reform (Steve Webb)

Volunteers at a local Sunday school every week and is a patron of several local charities.

Minister for Disabled People (Maria Miller)

Undertakes a volunteer session on the first Saturday of each month. This volunteer session is called the Speak Easy Advocacy and helps people with learning disabilities, autism and Aspergers, by offering guidance and advice over tea and coffee.

Minister for Welfare Reform (Lord Freud)

Sponsor and board member of the charity "Grand Mentors". This is a charity where mainly older retired people mentor and tutor young individuals.

Disability: Public Transport

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to provide financial assistance to disabled people who are unable to use public transport to travel to work. [77029]

Maria Miller: The Access to Work scheme can pay for additional travel costs that arise as a result of a customer's disability or health condition in the form of a reimbursement grant. Disabled people who are unable to use public transport to get to work can use Access to Work to fund a support worker driver or to pay taxi fares.

People with long-term disabilities may receive disability living allowance or attendance allowance, which provide a contribution towards the extra cost of disability. Recipients are free to spend the money in a way that best fits their circumstances, including on transport costs.

In addition, people in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or war pensioner's mobility supplement, provided they have at least 12 months remaining of their award, may choose to exchange all or part of that component to lease a vehicle from Motability, an independent charity.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many private sector landlords have agreed to reduce rents in return for an arrangement that housing benefit be paid direct to them *(a)* in Edinburgh, *(b)* in Scotland and *(c)* nationally since 1 April 2011. [75768]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the weekly level of jobseeker's allowance was in real terms in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the level of the allowance in each of the next five years. [75939]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is in the following table:

Real value of jobseeker's allowance at date of uprating (£ per week, April 2011 prices, using Consumer Prices Index)

	Single	*Couple*
April 2000	66.16	103.86
April 2001	66.45	104.28
April 2002	66.65	104.58
April 2003	66.54	104.41
April 2004	66.99	105.10
April 2005	66.37	104.10
April 2006	66.51	104.31
April 2007	66.64	104.55
April 2008	66.20	103.89
April 2009	68.76	107.96
April 2010	67.48	105.94
April 2011	67.50	105.95
April 2012 (forecast)	67.49	105.94
April 2013 (forecast)	67.51	105.93
April 2014 (forecast)	67.50	105.95
April 2015 (forecast)	67.52	105.97
April 2016 (forecast)	67.51	105.95

Source:

DWP Annual Abstract of Statistics, 2010, and Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2011

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency *(a)* under the age of 24 and *(b)* over the age of 50 have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months. [77260]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking; how many people in Middlesbrough South and East

Cleveland constituency (a) under the age of 24 and (b) over the age of 50 have been in receipt of Jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months. (77260)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

In September 2011 the number of people resident in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland claiming JSA for more than 52 weeks under 24 years old was 90. The number claiming JSA for more than 52 weeks over 50 years old was 100.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Remploy

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the potential number of Remploy employees who will find new employment under his proposals. [76961]

Maria Miller: At present no estimate has been made of the potential numbers of Remploy employees who will find new employment. This is because no decision has been made on the future strategy for Remploy and its operations continue as normal.

Following the outcome of the recent consultation, should the Government decision support implementation of the Sayce recommendations or alternative commercial proposals, then the Department will put in place a commercial strategy, and Remploy staff will receive professional support and advice to consider the options open to them.

It will take time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has invested in Remploy factories in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the rest of the UK in each of the last five years. [76964]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

£ million

	Total GIA	*EB*
2005-06	119.3	[1]—
2006-07	133.8	[1]—
2007-08	145.8	95.7
2008-09	121.5	71.3
2009-10	122.4	63.3
Total	642.8	[2]—

[1] Not known.

[2] Not available.

The total grant in aid funding paid to Remploy in the UK over the past five years for which data are available was £642.8 million. This relates to the whole of Remploy's operations, covering the Enterprise Businesses and Employment Services arms of the company.

For 2005-06 and 2006-07 the only figures available relate to the total amount of funding paid to Remploy. From 2007-08 onwards it is possible to separate out the funding for Enterprise Businesses, but this does not cover apportioned costs from Central Support Services, so underestimates the total funding.

It is not possible to separate out the funding for Scotland, Wales and England due to the way the businesses are split.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional benefits that would have to be paid to Remploy employees if they had not been in work for each of the last three years. [76965]

Maria Miller: It is not possible to provide any meaningful estimate of the additional benefits that would have had to be paid to Remploy employees if they had not been in work for each of the last three years, since the value of any benefits that Remploy employees may have been entitled to would depend on each individual's personal circumstances.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department has allocated for professional training and development of Remploy employees who are interested in setting up co-operatives, mutuals or social enterprises. [76966]

Maria Miller: At present no specific funding is allocated for professional training and development of Remploy employees who are interested in setting up co-operatives, mutuals or social enterprises. This is because no decision has been made on the future strategy for Remploy and its operations continue as normal.

Following the outcome of the recent consultation, should the Government decision support implementation of the Sayce recommendations or alternative commercial proposals, then the Department will put in place a commercial strategy, and Remploy staff will receive professional support and advice to consider the options open to them.

It will take time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Government procurement contracts have been awarded to Remploy in the last five years; and for what work. [76967]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Enterprise Business won 17 contracts with Government Departments in 2008-09 to 2010-11

Covering IT recycling and document handling; furniture for offices, schools, colleges and universities; Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) protection suits for police forces; wheelchairs and orthotics products for hospitals and health authorities.

Enterprise Business won 11 contracts with local authorities in 2008-09 to 2010-11

Providing CCTV management and monitoring and IT recycling for local councils.

Employment Services won 27 contracts with Government Departments in 2007-08 to 2010-11

Including Flexible New Deal, Pathways to Work, New Deal for Disabled People. Work with ex-offenders and those preparing to leave prison; Wellbeing through Work programme in Wales to support employees with mental health problems; occupational skills and training for Scottish Government; skills and training support on a large number of local projects.

Employment Services won 39 contracts with public bodies in 2007-08 to 2010-11

Including local authorities, Further Education colleges and skills organisations (including Learning and Skills Council) delivering skills training and work experience opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged people; working with local employers to support candidate groups in inner city and areas of high disadvantage who require specialist interventions.

Note that it is not possible to provide information for Enterprise Business for 2007-08 as prior to 2008, the company was organised on a regional basis. The information is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Universal Credit

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made any estimate of the cost implications of ending existing commercial housing benefit contracts early as a result of the introduction of universal credit; and whether his Department has any plans to pay compensation to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* contractors in consequence. [67035]

Steve Webb: The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. It also states that we will continue to pay housing benefit to working age customers until we can migrate them successfully on to universal credit, currently expected to be by October 2017. We have yet to settle on the precise details of how the transition will work, and the effects on housing benefits staff. This approach will ensure an orderly transition and that we have people with relevant skills and experience to support claimants both in work and out of work, as they migrate to the new credit.

We will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money. This work will also confirm whether and how TUPE will apply for those staff affected in all organisations.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to pilot the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [75453]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be introduced in October 2013, and individuals will be migrated to the new system over the subsequent four years. Experience of previous reforms and transformation programmes has shown that thorough operational testing is essential prior to a wide ranging implementation. As such we will deploy this 'pathfinder' approach on the universal credit programme. We will do so in good time to ensure lessons learnt can be incorporated into wider implementation plans and delivery processes.

Additionally, as part of the work to build the new system, claimants are being engaged in its design through frequent sessions in which they are asked to respond to both high level design thinking and detailed service design. There will be significant levels of testing specifically focused on ensuring that the various components work effectively together, including realistic business testing.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 627W, on the electoral register, what assessment he has made of the Electoral Commission's forecast for registration rates following the implementation of his proposals for individual voter registration. [77033]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission have made no forecast of registration rates following Individual Electoral Registration (IER). In their evidence to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee they speculated about a worst case scenario based on only those turning out to vote at elections registering to vote. The Government do not share this view.

The Government are committed to maintaining registration rates during the transition to IER. We have learnt from the experience in Northern Ireland and are phasing in IER over two years from 2014, putting in place a safeguard for the 2015 General Election so that existing electors who fail to register under the new system in 2014 are not disenfranchised. We are trialling data matching this year to see if it will help to get more people onto the electoral register. We are looking at how we can modernise the system of electoral registration by opening up new channels for registration which will also make it easier and more convenient for individuals to register to vote.

We are also working with the Electoral Commission to plan publicity around the transition which ensures that people are well informed about the change, and we are also working closely with a range of groups representing those at risk of falling off the register during the transition, to ensure the system is designed in the best possible way to meet their needs.

Lobbying

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 321W, on lobbying, what the reasons are for the time taken in publishing plans for a statutory register of lobbyists. [76977]

Mr Harper: The coalition agreement made clear that we will regulate lobbying through introducing a statutory register of lobbyists and ensuring greater transparency.

We remain committed to creating a statutory register of lobbyists and will publish a consultation paper next month.

This is a complex area, and we believe it is appropriate to consult widely on the form and content of a register before publishing draft legislation.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which external organisations he has consulted on proposals for a statutory register of lobbyists. [76978]

Mr Harper: The Government publish details of Minister's meetings with external organisations routinely. The Cabinet Office publishes this data online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Automotive Industry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the viability of the UK automotive industry. [76870]

Mr Prisk: The UK automotive sector is strong and growing. Production was up by 7% (in September); exports stand at over 75% of output; and planned recent new investments by BMW, Ford, JLR and Nissan total over £2.5 billion.

Advantage West Midlands: Wolverhampton

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received from Advantage West Midlands on the *(a)* i54 site, Wolverhampton and *(b)* the potential location of Jaguar Land Rover's new engine plant at the i54 site since his appointment; [73159]

(2) when the land for the i54 site, Wolverhampton was acquired by Advantage West Midlands; [73160]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* funding and *(b)* time allocated by Advantage West Midlands to remediating the i54 site, Wolverhampton (i) before and (ii) after the announcement of the abolition of the regional development agencies; [73161]

(4) what assessment he has made of the role of Advantage West Midlands in negotiations with Jaguar Land Rover on locating its new engine plant at the i54 site, Wolverhampton. [73162]

Mr Prisk: BIS officials are in regular contact with the regional development agencies (RDAs), including Advantage West Midlands (AWM), on a range of matters and issues, and these may include matters relating to individual project issues like the i54.

The land for the i54 site in Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire was progressively acquired between 2002 and 2007 by AWM, working with a range of local partners including Wolverhampton city council. The site transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on 19 September under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. AWM has been involved in the remediation and wider site works which have been under way since the initial acquisition of the site in March 2002, including securing outline planning permission for the site. AWM spent £52 million out of a BIS approval of £64 million up to the point of the announcement to abolish the RDA. A further £4.5 million was earmarked for additional remedial works between the announcement of the abolition of the RDA and the site's transfer to the HCA.

I have not made an assessment of AWM's role in negotiations with Jaguar Land Rover which resulted in the company's decision to locate its new engine plant at the i54 site. The decision by Jaguar Land Rover to locate its engine plant at the i54 site in Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire was facilitated by a range of national, regional and local stakeholders.

Apprentices

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in achieving the Government's objectives for apprenticeships. [76851]

Mr Hayes: This Government are committed to expansion of its flagship apprenticeships programme. The Statistical First Release published today demonstrates fantastic growth and a record year for apprenticeships. Provisional data for the full 2010/11 academic year show 442,700 starts and completions reaching 171,500.

Apprentices: Manufacturing Industries

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the 100,000 apprenticeships he proposes to create he expects to be within the manufacturing sector. [76725]

Mr Hayes: The apprenticeship programme is demand led. Government do not set targets for apprenticeships but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. Apprenticeships are paid jobs, we rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

In the last five years 180,000 people started an apprenticeship in engineering and manufacturing technologies. With current initiatives such as the expansion of advanced and higher apprenticeships, and increased funding announced in the 2011 Budget, we hope to expand this further.

Business: Recruitment

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the estimate contained in the British Chamber of Commerce Workforce Survey—Micro Businesses, that one in two micro businesses found it difficult to find the right people to fill their vacancies; and what steps he plans to take to assist such businesses. [76674]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* The 2009 National Employer Skills Survey identified that small businesses tend to have a higher proportion of total vacancies that are skills shortage vacancies. That is why the Department has launched a number of targeted measures to support smaller businesses to recruit new employees and upskill existing employees more easily.

This includes improving the information and guidance for small businesses on businesslink.gov, including how to access skills support. In addition, we fund a leadership and management programme for senior leaders of small to medium size enterprises to help them develop their own personal leadership and management skills so they are better able to create a high performing, innovative workplace and to improve the skills of their work force.

This Government are also taking action to make it easier for small businesses to take on apprenticeships. As well as increasing funding to deliver some 360,000 apprenticeships this year, the Government have introduced new quality standards, cut red tape and boosted the number of advanced level apprenticeships to deliver the skills employers need to drive growth.

Business: Regulation

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in reducing the burden of regulation on businesses through the Red Tape Challenge. [76852]

Vince Cable: While some regulation is necessary, excessive regulation creates an unacceptable burden, on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in particular. The Government are tackling this problem through the Red Tape Challenge. So far this exercise has looked at 378 regulations relating to the retail and hospitality sectors and we have already announced plans to remove or simplify 220 of these—that is more than half. All regulations affecting business will be featured on the website on a rolling basis.

Common Customs Tariffs

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has estimated the potential additional custom administration costs to UK businesses exporting goods or services to EU member states if they were required to pay the EU external tariff; and if he will make a statement. [75041]

Mr Prisk: No estimate has been made. There is uncertainty as to what tariff UK exporters to the EU would face if the UK were not a member of the European Union.

At worst, UK businesses could be forced to pay the most favoured nation tariff to export goods to the EU. In 2009, the simple average EU MFN tariff was 5.3%. But it is possible the UK would be granted some form of preferential access, whereby UK business would pay less than the full MFN tariff. In either case, tariff payments would also depend on the precise pattern of trade in any given year. In addition, estimating the extra administrative burdens associated with completing customs declarations, claiming preferential tariff treatment or other non-tariff costs of exporting goods and services to the EU could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Companies: Annual Reports

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the quality of companies' narrative reporting under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006; [76898]

(2) if he will assess the effect on the economy of levels of low quality, unverified and incomplete disclosure in companies' narrative reporting. [76899]

Mr Davey: I am currently consulting on changes to the narrative reporting framework to simplify the framework and improve the quality of company narrative reporting. I would be happy to consider any specific points that the hon. Member wishes to raise as part of the consultation.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what enforcement measures his Department has taken to ensure that UK companies abide by the reporting requirements contained in the Companies Act 2006; [76957]

(2) what external assessment mechanisms are in place to ensure the *(a)* validity, *(b)* veracity and *(c)* completeness of information provided in the annual reports of UK companies. [76959]

Mr Davey: The primary responsibility for the validity, veracity and completeness of the information in the annual reports of UK companies rests with the directors. Shareholders should also be actively engaged in holding directors to account.

For larger companies, external auditors will express an opinion on whether the annual accounts give a true and fair view; have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The auditor must report on whether in his opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with those accounts. Statutory auditors are themselves independently monitored.

In addition listed companies are covered by the Listing Rules, made by the UK Listing Authority.

The Financial Reporting Review Panel proactively reviews a sample of public company and large private company accounts for compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act. Where there is, or may be, a question of non-compliance, the panel engages with companies with a view to seeking corrective action where necessary. In addition, both the panel and Companies House respond to concerns raised. Where appropriate the Secretary of State for Business, Information and Skills can use powers under the Companies Acts to conduct confidential, fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Official receivers and insolvency practitioners are required to investigate the circumstances of failure of companies and establish why they have become insolvent. This could uncover evidence of inappropriately prepared reports and accounts.

Directors of limited companies are required to deliver accounts and reports to the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Act 2006. If a company fails to deliver its accounts and reports by the appropriate date all persons who are directors of the company immediately before the end of the reporting period are guilty of an offence; unless they can prove that they took all reasonable steps to comply with the requirements before the end of the period. Companies House send reminder letters and e-mails before accounts become due to help companies comply with their filing requirements. If companies fail to file on time, Companies House commences enforcement action, which can ultimately result in the prosecution of directors. When a company delivers accounts late, an automatic civil late filing penalty is imposed. The latest figures show (September 2011) that over 92% of active companies deliver accounts on time and 99% of active companies have an up to date set of accounts filed at Companies House. These are among the highest compliance rates of any company registry in the world.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Financial Reporting Review Panel in assessing the *(a)* quality, *(b)* validity and *(c)* completeness of the content of non-financial reporting in annual reports required by the Companies Act 2006. [76958]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) has every confidence in the effectiveness of the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73676]

Mr Davey: There has been no spend on hospitality for events hosted by BIS Ministers during this period. The following amounts refer only to the cost of refreshments at meetings:

	£
October 2010	0
November 2010	31.50
December 2010 to June 2011	0
July 2011	35.35
August 2011	26.60
September 2011	67.30

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76226]

Mr Davey: BIS Ministers are committed to participating in the One Day Challenge. A decision on the disclosure of related activities will be made in due course.

Design: Curriculum

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on retaining design and technology within the curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [75467]

Mr Hayes: We exchange views regularly and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), is well aware that design and technology are crucial to the Growth Review.

Flexible Working

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on his proposals for maternity and paternity leave and flexible working. [76857]

Mr Davey: The Modern Workplaces consultation ran from 16 May to 8 August 2011 It outlined the Government's proposals to introduce a system of flexible parental leave and extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, following the coalition commitments.

During the consultation, discussions were held with various groups representing business, unions, parents, children and charities. We intend to publish our response early next year.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he plans to announce the Government's investment priorities for the Green Investment Bank; [76927]

(2) when he expects to establish the governance framework to set the strategic priorities for the Green Investment Bank; [76930]

(3) when he plans to publish *(a)* identified objectives, *(b)* identified areas of focus and *(c)* budgeted costs associated with increasing the capital for the Green Investment Bank. [76935]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), will update the House on these and other issues associated with establishing the Green Investment Bank later this year.

Green Investment Bank: Operating Costs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the running costs of the Green Investment Bank in each of its first five years; and how these costs will be met. [77032]

Mr Prisk: We will establish an institution which is effective and affordable. We are still in the process of scoping the strategic priorities and finalising the cost estimates.

Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he intends to bring forward the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill; and if he will make a statement. [77183]

Mr Davey: We aim to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Insolvency

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of holding a consultation on preventing ransom payments being charged by suppliers in insolvency cases. [76448]

Mr Davey: The Government have previously announced that we would consider the case for updating section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the wider issue of termination clauses. My officials at the Insolvency Service are currently looking into the merits of any change and the options that could entail, and have been discussing with various interested parties. We will then decide how to proceed.

Non-domestic Rates

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on economic growth and jobs in *(a)* the retail sector and *(b)* other sectors, if business rates are not increased in 2012. [76051]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Business rates are annually uprated by retail prices index inflation. The Government keep all taxes under review.

Nuclear Power: Storage

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding the Research Councils UK Energy Programme has allocated for research on the storage and containment of nuclear fuel in the last year for which figures are available. [77093]

Mr Willetts: In the current financial year, Research Councils UK Energy Programme funding on research for the storage and containment of nuclear fuel amounts to £6.75 million.

Nuclear Reactors: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 278W, on nuclear reactors: research, what proportion of total energy research expenditure by the Research Councils UK Energy Programme the £23 million spent on the next generation of nuclear reactors represents. [77088]

Mr Willetts: The current Research Councils UK Energy Programme portfolio totals £658 million. The £23 million represents 3.5% of this total.

Skilled Workers: Wind Power

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of people with skills in the wind turbine industry. [76856]

Mr Hayes: A skilled workforce is vital to the green economy. As we set out in the skills strategy, we have made sure employers can identify and articulate their green skills needs within the skills system. That is supported by investment of £3.9 billion to deliver skills and training this year, a commitment for over 360,000 Apprenticeships, and funding for projects through the Growth and Innovation and Regional Growth Funds.

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve social mobility; and if he will make a statement. [76602]

Mr Prisk: The Department worked closely with the Cabinet Office and other Departments to produce the Government's Social Mobility Strategy in April 2011. This strategy set out our overall approach for tackling social mobility and provided details of the specific steps that the Department would be taking to support this.

Investing in people's skills through education and training is a key driver of improved life chances. That is why we are committed to establishing clear career progression routes built on well-respected vocational qualifications and our expanded Apprenticeships programme is at the heart of this: funding in financial year 2011/12 will increase to over £1.4 billion; we will increase the quality of apprenticeships through new national standards; and, the Access to Apprenticeships pathway will benefit up to 10,000 vulnerable young people aged between16-24. The National Career Service, to be launched in April 2012, will help people to find the most appropriate route to suit their personal needs.

For some people, entering the labour market and progressing can be a huge challenge and they need substantial help and guidance to develop their skills acquisition and progress to sustainable employment with prospects. Our reforms to further education, published in our Skills for Sustainable Growth strategy and in the New Challenges, New Chances consultation, mean that funding of further education and training is fairer by refocusing it on those that need it most. My Department is working with DFE and DWP on the Participation Strategy, which will be published in November and set out how we intend to maximise the number of young people in education training and employment. In addition, our commitment to Informal Adult and Community Learning can provide the initial stepping stone people need to further.

Our reforms to promote fairer access to higher education were set out in the White Paper "Students at the Heart of the System" (June 2011). To help make progress in the numbers of young people entering higher education from disadvantaged backgrounds, and in particular to the most selective universities, we are establishing a new framework, which places more responsibility on universities and colleges to widen participation. Universities and colleges that charge more than £6,000 for tuition will need new access agreements that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the independent Director of Fair Access what more they will do to attract and retain students from under-represented and disadvantaged groups. They will also need to participate in the new National Scholarship Programme from 2012 and provide matched funding.

Further information on the specific commitments, milestones and success indicators are provided in the Social Mobility Strategy.

Supermarkets: Competition

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the role and powers of the proposed groceries adjudicator. [76985]

Mr Davey: I have received a wide range of representations on the role and powers on this subject. There were 60 respondents to the formal 2010 consultation divided as follows.

	Number
Trade bodies	21
Individuals	14
Large retailers	10
Non-governmental organisations	4
Government bodies	3
Religious groups	3
Charities	2
Suppliers	2
Legal	1

Additionally, BIS officials and I have met a range of interested parties to discuss this subject.

Technology Strategy Board

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on the Technology Strategy Board, where the Technology Strategy Board met on each occasion that it met outside Wiltshire. [77087]

Mr Willetts: The 27 meetings of the TSB's Governing Board that have been held outside Wiltshire have been held at the following locations:

London (19 times)
Marlow (Buckinghamshire)
Brackley (Northamptonshire)
Brussels
Oxford
Babraham (Cambridgeshire)
Edinburgh
Guildford (Surrey)
Newport Pagnell (Buckinghamshire)

London has been used as a location most often due to its transport links and easy access for the governing board members.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73987]

Mr Davey: I understand the hon. Member to mean civil society organisations.

The Department does not separately identify 'civil society organisations' so therefore cannot provide a response without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much direct funding his Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much it plans to provide in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74842]

Mr Davey: The Department does not separately identify "civil society organisations" so therefore cannot provide a response without incurring disproportionate costs.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 31 October 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the correspondence between his Department and the Committee on Climate Change on the outline proposal for the scope of the Committee's advice on how local authorities can reduce their carbon emissions. [77695]

Gregory Barker: Yes I will.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* will be spent during the wind-up the Competition One carbon capture and storage project. [77321]

Charles Hendry: Just over £60 million has been spent to date. A further £900,000 is expected to be spent during the wind-up.

Chief Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 30W, on departmental chief scientific advisers, which organisation seconded a staff member to his Department's support office as indicated in the staffing figures for March 2010. [77277]

Gregory Barker: The staff member was seconded from the Carbon Trust.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77343]

Gregory Barker: The following items have been lost or stolen since May 2010:

	Number
Computers (including laptops)	8
Mobile phones	3
BlackBerrys	11
Other IT equipment	0

All computers and BlackBerrys lost were encrypted to protect government information.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of the Department's official visits since May 2010. [76968]

Gregory Barker: The cost of official visits undertaken by DECC staff from 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011 is £2.8 million. This represents the costs of travel, hotels and subsistence costs incurred by officials in the course of business, including overseas visits necessary to fulfil DECC's international energy and climate change obligations. The costs of official visits has fallen significantly in this period. For example, expenditure in the financial year 2010-11 was 42% lower (at £2.2 million) than in the previous financial year 2009-10 (at £3.8 million).

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with DECC's "Travel and Subsistence" policy (applicable from 1 October 2010) which requires that:

staff should only travel if it is absolutely necessary;

all travel bookings must be made though the official suppliers and that; and

standard or economy class must be used unless there is a clear business need for a higher class to be approved.

The departmental travel guidance also encourages staff to always look for low carbon travel options such as using the train, or hosting meetings by videoconference.

Details of DECC ministers' overseas visits is also published on the DECC website.

Energy Supply

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his senior officials have had with representatives of (i) National Grid and (ii) Scottish and Southern Energy in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77345]

Charles Hendry: The Department has met, and will continue to meet, representatives from National Grid and Scottish and Southern Energy; and other similar stakeholders, at official and ministerial level. We regard all meetings with such stakeholders as important for the formulation of the Government's energy policy.

Energy: Local Government

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote energy saving practices in local authority-owned buildings. [77045]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will be available from late 2012 to all property tenures, including local authority owned buildings. It will offer energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost with the cost repaid through the energy bill savings. We are working closely with the local government sector to develop these proposals.

Up to December 2012 there remain significant opportunities for local authorities to deliver energy efficiency schemes in partnership with the energy companies through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) schemes.

Energy: Meters

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the letter from the Minister of State of 30 September 2011, whether contract metered customers with a debt of less than £200 are able to switch to another supplier in addition to prepayment meter customers. [76330]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the rules governing debt-blocking. Customers with a debt can switch to another supplier. However, suppliers have the right under their supply licence to block a transfer request when an amount remains outstanding on a customer's account 28 days after it has been formally demanded.

Energy: Prices

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of Scottish Power on changes in standing charges on energy bills in the last 12 months; [76902]

(2) what assessment he has made of the changes in standing charges on energy bills in the last 12 months. [76903]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

The setting of the standing charge is a commercial matter for the company itself. However, it is in their interest to set the charge at a reasonable level to avoid their customers' considering the deals offered by other suppliers.

Ofgem is currently consulting on a range of proposals on tariffs that will reform the energy market to make it simpler and more competitive. The proposals include a requirement for each supplier to offer one standard tariff for each payment method, for which Ofgem will set the standing charge.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to combat the mis-selling of energy tariffs. [77046]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the marketing activities used by supply companies. In 2009, Ofgem brought in new rules for doorstep selling that require any information used during the sales process to be complete, accurate and not misleading. It is for Ofgem to investigate any allegations of the rules being breached and to take any necessary action.

Last month, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), announced that the Government are considering giving Ofgem additional powers to secure redress for consumers where they have lost out as a result of a licence or energy regulation breach.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the likely cost per household of the introduction of smart meters; [77053]

(2) what recent estimate his Department has made of the annual saving in energy bills per household as a result of the introduction of smart meters. [77054]

Charles Hendry: The Government's updated impact assessment published in August 2011, estimates that the rollout of smart meters to the domestic sector will deliver a net benefit of almost £5 billion, leading to an average bill saving of £22 per household in 2020 and £42 in 2030. This reflects an estimated total gross cost of the domestic rollout of £11 billion, offset by £16 billion in gross benefits. These benefits include the direct savings to households as they are able to use energy more efficiently and the cost savings achieved by energy suppliers which are expected to be passed through to consumers.

Fuel

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department has given to the use of liquid fluoride thorium as an alternative to nuclear fuel. [77243]

Charles Hendry: Ultimately it is for the industry to propose what type of fuel to use in any future nuclear reactors, the designs of which would be subject to independent regulatory assessment and acceptance. To date, no potential operator has put forward proposals for a thorium fuelled plant.

That said, the Department is aware of the potential of thorium fuelled nuclear reactor designs, including those using liquid fluoride thorium fuel, and is in the process of assessing claims regarding its suitability as an alternative to uranium based reactors in the longer term.

The current view of thorium reactor technologies from the nuclear industry is that, while the science is reasonably sound, developing reactors based on a thorium fuel cycle would carry major technological and commercial risks. The resources required to develop these technologies to the point at which they might be deployed successfully at a commercial scale are also very significant.

To date, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, this has prevented private industry and Government from investing significantly in the development of the technology. No thorium reactor design has been implemented beyond relatively small, experimental systems, while many either exist only on paper or have only had specific subsystems demonstrated. As an indicator of the challenge of taking this technology further, the Chinese Academy of Sciences estimates a development period of at least 20 years will be required before a demonstration thorium molten salt breeder reactor might be available.

While thorium does not appear to have a part to play in the UK's near to mid-term energy market, we do maintain an interest in its development. The Secretary of State has asked the national nuclear laboratory to look further into the wider benefits of next generation reactor designs and to compare the use of thorium and uranium fuels in them. We are expecting the findings to be available in due course.

Green Deal Scheme

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure small and medium-sized enterprises can participate in the green deal. [77192]

Gregory Barker: SMEs will play a key role in delivering a successful green deal and the Department has been actively engaging all types of businesses to ensure that our approach is as flexible as possible and does not create unnecessary barriers.

During the consultation period we will also be holding a number of events, including with SME representatives to explore some of the potential business models they may wish to consider.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to provide training to help domestic energy assessors become green deal assessors. [77199]

Gregory Barker: The national occupational standards for green deal assessors are being designed to recognise and credit the existing skills domestic energy assessors (DEAs) possess. We expect the market to begin offering qualifications from early next year, with DEAs existing skills set being taken into account, making it easier for them to upskill to become green deal assessors.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of green deal assessors needed to meet the objectives for participation in the green deal. [77200]

Gregory Barker: The green deal is a market-led initiative, so the number of green deal assessors required will vary depending on the size of this market. A healthy green deal market will provide substantial opportunities for those looking to become green deal assessors, in both full-time and part-time roles.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many green deal assessors are fully trained and ready to work. [77201]

Gregory Barker: The qualifications for green deal assessors are being finalised and we expect people to begin training early next year in time for the launch of the green deal.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advice on competition law his Department has received on the decision to have a single green deal finance provider. [77406]

Gregory Barker: The Department is actively and openly engaging with a broad range of potential financiers for the green deal and has not taken a decision to have a single provider for green deal finance.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in meeting the Kyoto protocol targets on the emission of fluorinated greenhouse gases since 1990. [76589]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has fully implemented a comprehensive EU regulatory framework that has been in place since May 2006 to control emissions, as part of the EU's commitments under the Kyoto protocol. The major focus is to minimise emissions of fluorinated (F) gases from products and equipment. This is mainly carried out through containment, leak reduction and repair and recovery of F gases.

In 1995, UK F gas emissions were 17.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (mt CO2e). The late 1990s saw a sharp drop as the two plants in the UK that produced the ozone depleting substance R22 installed equipment that captured and destroyed F gas emissions created as a by-product of the process. These two plants have since closed. From the end of the 1990s, F gas emissions have been relatively steady. The latest finalised UK greenhouse gas figures are for 2009, and indicate F gas emissions were 11.7mt CO2e. With the recent full implementation of the EU F gas regulatory framework and the impact of technological change, we anticipate significant emissions reductions in the future.

Heating Oil

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase consumer protection in the off-grid energy sector. [77665]

Charles Hendry: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) enforces consumer protection law. Local authority trading standards services also have the powers to tackle such infringements of consumer protection legislation. Carmarthenshire county council has recently taken action against a heating oil supplier that engaged in unfair commercial practice by charging more than it quoted or not giving a quote with customers paying more than they expected.

Following the publication of the findings of its off-grid market study, the OFT is actively examining this and related pricing practices, engaging with industry to ensure consumer law compliance, and will take swift enforcement action as necessary.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the ability of consumers to switch suppliers in the heating oil market. [77666]

Charles Hendry: In its recent market study into the off-grid energy market, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) examined the heating oil market. The OFT found most consumers have a reasonably large choice of supplier with less than 3% of UK off-grid households living in a location with fewer than four distinct suppliers. It also found that heating oil consumers are normally able to switch supplier because they usually own their storage tanks and very few are tied into supply contracts. Moreover the OFT also indicated that consumers do not necessarily have to switch to a rival supplier to obtain lower prices if they can do so through the threat of switching.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote greater transparency in the heating oil market. [77690]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a competitive market for the supply of heating oil. It is regulated by the UK's independent competition authorities, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Competition Commission.

On 18 October, the OFT published its market study into the off-grid energy market. The OFT found the primary driver of price increases to be the crude oil price which accounts for over 90% of the variation in the retail price of heating oil.

During the market study, the OFT took action against certain heating oil companies and price comparison websites to improve transparency and prevent consumers being misled when searching online for heating oil supplies.

The OFT study also identified that action is needed to protect heating oil consumers in relation to unfair contracts leading to consumers paying more on delivery than the price quoted at order. A successful prosecution by Trading Standards in August against a supplier for unfair commercial practice has re-affirmed the law in this area. The OFT is actively examining this and related pricing practices, engaging with industry to ensure consumer law compliance, and will take swift enforcement action as necessary.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that suppliers of heating oil deliver fuel to off-grid consumers at the price agreed at the time of purchase. [77696]

Charles Hendry: As I noted in my statement of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, 59WS, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has just published findings from its market study into the off-grid energy market. The study has identified that action is needed to protect heating oil consumers in relation to unfair contracts leading to consumers paying more on delivery than the price quoted at order. A successful prosecution, under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, by Carmarthenshire county council Trading Standards in August 2011 for unfair commercial practice has reaffirmed the law in this area. The prosecution demonstrates that local authority Trading Standards services have the powers to tackle such infringements of consumer protection legislation. The OFT is actively examining this and related pricing practices, engaging with industry to ensure consumer law compliance, and will take swift enforcement action as necessary.

Insulation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the costs to energy suppliers of sending letters to vulnerable consumers on their eligibility for free or discounted insulation will be in addition to existing obligations on suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [77634]

Gregory Barker: The costs to energy suppliers arising from funding letters to vulnerable consumers encouraging them to take up insulation offers will form part of the companies' overall costs in meeting their existing carbon saving obligations to promote energy efficiency measures.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to *(a)* regulate the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) industry and *(b)* monitor the difference in prices of LPG across the UK. [76897]

Charles Hendry: Regulation is typically introduced where natural monopolies arise. While the gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks are natural monopolies, this is not an issue for LPG supply where the UK has an open and competitive market with regulation by the UK's independent competition authorities who are the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Competition Commission.

As I noted in my Statement of 18 October, the OFT has just published its findings from its market study into the off-grid energy market, which includes the market structure and pricing of LPG. The study followed an investigation in 2006 by the Competition Commission into the supply of domestic bulk LPG. The recent market study has found that the Orders made subsequent to the market investigation appear to have substantially increased switching rates for individual tank customers but the OFT will keep the effectiveness of and compliance with the Orders under review. The study highlighted that many pricing concerns with LPG tended to stem from contract terms. The OFT has considered consumer protection issues and is engaging with suppliers to seek improvement in the clarity of contract terms, particularly concerning cancellation and switching rights.

Motion-sensitive Lighting Systems

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage businesses and owners of office buildings to install motion-sensitive lighting systems. [77219]

Gregory Barker: There are a number of ways in which the Department is taking steps to provide encouragement:

The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme will incentivise energy efficiency improvements in large organisations, through its combination of financial, reporting and reputational drivers. This should include incentivising the installation of motion-sensitive lighting.

Under the Green Deal, we propose to include energy efficient lighting and lighting controls as an eligible measure in the non-domestic sector. Businesses will be able to install new lighting systems at no up-front cost with payments recouped through the electricity bill.

The Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for energy efficient products provides an incentive to industry to invest in plant and machinery where energy efficiency needs to be encouraged, enabling them to write off 100% of the cost of the asset in the year of purchase. High efficiency lighting units are included in this scheme and might qualify.

We also work closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government who lead on building regulations. Building regulations set minimum standards for lighting systems and their controls, including recognising the benefits of motion-sensitive lighting systems, where property owners decide to carry out building work and replace their lighting systems.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the process is for allowing Cuadrilla Resources to resume hydraulic fracturing operations for shale gas; and whether he will make the final decision on resumption. [77632]

Charles Hendry: A geomechanical study has been undertaken by Cuadrilla, the operator carrying out shale gas exploration near Blackpool, with its report due to be submitted to my Department very soon. The implications of this report will be reviewed very carefully—in consultation with the British Geological Survey, independent experts and the other key regulators—before any decision on the resumption of these hydraulic fracture operations is made. To resume hydraulic fracture operations will require consent under the Petroleum Act 1998 which is a matter for the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) to consider.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the 14th round of UK onshore oil and gas licensing to commence. [77633]

Charles Hendry: Consultation on the strategic environmental assessment for the 14th onshore oil and gas licensing round completed earlier this year. DECC is currently considering the responses received and plans to issue a Government response as soon as practical. I would then expect to be in a position to make a decision sometime in the new year.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the regulatory framework for shale gas exploration and drilling in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other countries. [77972]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a robust regulatory system. All onshore oil and gas projects, including shale gas exploration and development, are subject to appropriate environmental controls, including scrutiny by the relevant environmental agency (for England and Wales, the Environment Agency), and are subject to safety regulation by the Health and Safety Executive. They also require planning permission, and consent from DECC, before drilling activities, which may include hydraulic fracturing, can commence.

Further planning permission and development consent would be required, from the planning authority and DECC respectively, should the operator intend to move forward with the commercial development of the resources. An environmental impact assessment may also be required, depending on the area of the proposed works, or (if commercial production is proposed) on the expected level of production. Appropriate assessments under the habitats and birds directives may also be necessary in specific locations.

I have made no assessment of the regulatory framework in other countries. Government do continue to study the experience already gained in north America, and any available learning for shale gas activities in the UK. However UK conditions, including the geology, and the UK regulatory framework, are different, and there will not necessarily be any straightforward read across from the experience of other countries.

Nuclear Installations: Floods

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his contribution of 11 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 190, on the Weightman Report (Fukushima), if he will set out a site-by-site assessment on the steps his Department is taking to ensure that licensed nuclear sites can continue to operate with satisfactory back-up systems regardless of the magnitude of flooding events. [77630]

Charles Hendry: As Dr Weightman's report notes:

> "The protection of nuclear sites from flood risk is already a well established part of ensuring safety at nuclear sites. However, it is important to learn any lessons from the Fukushima accident and for the industry to review flooding studies in line with the principles of continuous improvement"

(Final report, p. 153, para. 827).

Annex F of his final report sets out a strategic summary of the flood risk around nuclear sites in the UK.

Annex G of his final report summarises on a site-by-site basis, the flood risk and methodology for coping with and improving defences and reactions to flooding.

Further to this, recommendation IR-10 of the report states that industry should initiate a review of flood defences at sites to confirm the design basis and its margins in terms of flooding in the light of the Japanese experience. In terms of back-up systems, recommendations IR-18 and IR-19 of the report seek review of the need for the provision of additional electrical or cooling supplies in the event of loss of off-site capacity under severe conditions or disruption. These actions will be taken forward by operators and may become part of the site's Periodic Safety Review Programme and will in any case be reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The Nuclear National Policy Statement also requires applicants to build new nuclear power stations to identify flood risk and the mitigation measures to be taken.

World Nuclear Forum

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the Royal Society's proposal that a World Nuclear Forum led by chief executive officers be established at the next World Nuclear Security Summit. [77289]

Charles Hendry: There is already a great deal of international activity looking at the issues of the future development of nuclear power and responsibilities for non-proliferation and nuclear security and safety worldwide. We recognise the value of co-operation between operators and Governments and support closer working between the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), the World Nuclear Association (WNA) and the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). Indeed, at the recent WANO biennial general meeting in China, the IAEA Director-General encouraged closer co-operation between the IAEA and WANO. However, we believe that this can be achieved without the need to set up new fora and secretariats.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Leader of the House what recent *(a)* oral and *(b)* written representations he has received on the issue of the tabling of parliamentary questions; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such representations. [77034]

Sir George Young: I have received no written representations on the issue of the tabling of parliamentary questions. However, during the debate on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 515-52, I had the opportunity to hear the representations of a number of hon. and right hon. Members on this subject. The hon. Member will know that the provision of time on the floor of the House for any debates and decisions on the rules governing the tabling of parliamentary questions is now a matter for the Backbench Business Committee and not the responsibility of the Government.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Leader of the House what changes have been made to the rules governing the tabling of parliamentary questions in each of the last six years. [77035]

Sir George Young: On 24 July 2006, the then Government proposed a change to the rules governing the tabling of parliamentary questions to enable questions to be tabled for answer on certain days in September that year; the proposal was agreed to by the House. On 28 March 2007, the then Government proposed a new Standing Order making such arrangements permanent; this was agreed to by the House and is now Standing Order No. 22B. Although not involving formal rule changes, on 25 October 2007 the House of Commons approved proposals for topical oral questions, which arose from a recommendation of the Modernisation Committee and were supported by the then Government; topical questions were introduced from the start of Session 2007-08. The Procedure Committee made a recommendation for earlier deadlines for questions tabled electronically in its Third Report of Session 2008-09, published in July 2009, but this recommendation was not considered by the House.

The provision of time on the floor of the House for any debates and decisions on the rules governing the tabling of parliamentary questions is now a matter for the Backbench Business Committee and not the responsibility of the Government. The Government did not submit evidence to the Procedure Committee on written parliamentary questions prior to the publication of its report covering that subject. The changes agreed by the House on 13 October 2011 were proposed by the Chair of that Committee and debated in backbench time.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings HM ambassador to Israel has had with the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* in Israel, *(b)* in the UK and *(c)* elsewhere since May 2010; whether Mr Adam Werritty was present on any such occasion; and which (i) other officials and (ii) other people were present on each occasion. [76970]

Alistair Burt: All meetings which our ambassador to Israel has had with the former Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) since May 2010 are set out in the Cabinet Secretary's report of 18 October 2011. Our ambassador to Israel was also invited by the former Defence Secretary to a private social engagement in summer 2010 at which Adam Werritty was present.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77492]

Mr Bellingham: There are currently no consultants recorded centrally as working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

It is possible that consultancy is used from time to time in FCO Posts overseas where there is a lack of in-house specialist expertise, but gathering data on this would incur disproportionate cost. Any use of consultants would be subject to rigorous scrutiny and the acceptance of a business case.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition of domestic violence his Department uses. [76999]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses the current cross-Government definition which defines domestic violence as:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

In 2004, the Government introduced a single definition of domestic violence replacing the previous 14 different definitions in use across Government and the public sector.

Egypt: Christianity

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Egyptian Government on the treatment of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [76907]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) called the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 12 October to discuss the situation in Egypt. The Foreign Secretary raised concerns about the unrest in Cairo on 9 October and impressed upon the Egyptian Government the need to take action to address the violence.

In a statement on 10 October the Foreign Secretary expressed his deep concern over the unrest and the loss of life in Cairo. He urged all Egyptians to refrain from violence, support the Egyptian Prime Minister's call for calm and for all sides to engage in dialogue. He said that the freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society.

The Deputy Prime Minister discussed sectarian tension with the Egyptian Government during his visit on 20 October. We will continue to encourage the authorities to promote religious tolerance and protect minority rights.

European Union: Powers

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what powers have been repatriated from the EU since May 2010; and what powers have transferred from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU member states to the EU since May 2010. [77236]

Mr Lidington: There have not been any changes to the EU treaties since May 2010 which have resulted in a transfer of competence from the EU to the member states. Following the amendments introduced by the Lisbon treaty, the treaty on the functioning of the European Union now recognises the possibility that the European Union might decide to cease to exercise a competence conferred upon it by the member states and for this competence to be returned to the member states. The final sentence of Article 2(2) TFEU provides that:

> "The Member States shall exercise their competence again to the extent that the Union has decided to cease exercising its competence."

Article 5 of the treaty on the European Union makes clear that the Union shall act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the member states under the treaties. The treaties and subsequent amendments thereto have been agreed by the member states by consensus and not by either majority voting or unanimity in the Council of Ministers. There have been no treaties agreed since May 2010 which have transferred competences from the UK to the EU. There has been a decision under the simplified revision procedure to allow for the amendment of Article 136 TFEU. This does not apply to the UK, nor does it transfer any competence from other EU member states to the EU. It remains to be ratified by all member states and therefore is not yet in force.

Iran: Sentencing

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities against the sentence given to Marziyeh Vafamehr. [76450]

Alistair Burt: I am pleased to hear that actress Marzieh Vafamehr's sentence of one year and 90 lashes has been commuted and that she has been released from prison. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials spoke to the Iranian chargé d'affaires in London on 20 October about her case. The UK was shocked by this sentence and believes that state sanctioned corporal punishment has no place in the modern world. We urge the Iranian authorities to review all other cases where this sentence has been imposed. With our EU partners, the UK has taken co-ordinated action to address Iran's human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for human rights violations, including government ministers and members of the judiciary.

Tunisia: Elections

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent elections in Tunisia; and what plans his Department has to engage with Tunisian representatives for the new Constituent Assembly. [77130]

Alistair Burt: The elections held in Tunisia on 23 October were a success. The Tunisian authorities and the Tunisian people should be congratulated for the orderly way in which the voting was carried out, the high turnout, and the access the Tunisian authorities granted to observers. Those observers, both domestic and international, saw a consistent, clear and systematic process.

The Constituent Assembly will face the challenges of electing a speaker, nominating a president and then forming a government, before the work of drawing up a new constitution can begin. We look forward to engaging with the new democratically elected Tunisian Government, once it has been formed, including through our embassy in Tunis and officials here in London.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the average number of written parliamentary questions tabled per sitting day was in each of the last six sessions. [77036]

John Thurso: The information requested has been calculated from the Sessional Returns and is as follows:

Session	*Sitting days*	*Number of questions for written answer*	*Average number of questions for written answer per sitting day*
2010-12	195	67,198	[1]345
2009-10	69	25,467	369
2008-09	139	56,192	404
2007-08	165	73,357	445
2006-07	146	57,825	396
2005-06	208	95,041	457
2004-05	65	22,292	343

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[1] 2010-12 figure is until end of September 2011.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77377]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has not purchased any assets with a value of £250,000 since May 2010.

Departmental Contracts

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77496]

Mr Paterson: There are no staff employed on consultancy contracts in my Department.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and (d) other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77376]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has not lost any computers, mobile telephones, BlackBerrys or other IT equipment since May 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77601]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, I have not received any such applications.

Patrick Finucane

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made by Desmond da Silva QC in relation to the Finucane Review; and if he will make a statement. [76996]

Mr Paterson: Sir Desmond's review is independent of Government. He has been asked to deliver his report by December 2012 and progress on the review between now and then is a matter for him.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with Desmond da Silva QC on the Finucane Review. [76997]

Mr Paterson: I have not met with Sir Desmond de Silva since his appointment on 12 October and I have no plans to do so. Sir Desmond's review is independent of Government.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had on promoting social enterprises in the area for which his Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77378]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has no departmental responsibility for promoting social enterprise. However, I have held discussions with the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development and others and have met organisations from within this sector as part of my duties in promoting the big society agenda, of which the hon. Member will be supportive.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Building a Fairer Britain: Reforming the Equality and Human Rights Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many individuals responded to the Government's consultation on Building a Fairer Britain: Reforming the Equality and Human Rights Commission; when the Government plans to respond to the consultation; and how many respondents agreed with the questions numbered *(a)* 1 to 7, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 13 and *(d)* 14 in the consultation document. [77014]

Lynne Featherstone: The consultation closed on 15 June, and we are currently considering the responses received. We will publish a summary of responses and the Government's response to the consultation, setting out how we intend to proceed, in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the National Farmers Union and *(b)* other farming organisations on ensuring a strong domestic market for the produce of British farmers. [75848]

Mr Paice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, met with the NFU on 15 September where CAP reform was discussed. She also had further discussions on CAP reform with the NFU on 21 September.

She has also met with the Institute of Grocery Distribution's Policy Issues Council on 21 September when ensuring a strong domestic market for the produce of British farmers was discussed.

DEFRA officials have regular discussions with the National Farmers Union via forums such as the Quad partnership (along with representatives from the British Retail Consortium and Food and Drink Federation) and the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). Discussions are wide ranging covering for example:

Public Sector Procurement

Farm Assurance Schemes

Groceries Code Adjudicator

Business Development Manager Programme

Land Release for Community Growing

Officials intend to have further meetings with NFU and other stakeholders in the near future to discuss the new origin labelling requirements for meat.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the cost of *(a)* setting up and operating a licensing regime and *(b)* introducing a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses for (i) circuses, (ii) local authorities and (iii) the Government; and if she will make a statement. [76647]

Mr Paice: It is our intention that the costs of a licensing scheme for animals in circuses will be borne by the circus industry itself, through the cost of the licence fee. DEFRA intends to consult on proposals in early 2012 which will include an impact assessment setting out the different options and estimates of the costs involved.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will set a timetable for implementing a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. [76657]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert), during the oral answers to questions on 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 467-68.

Carbon Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department plans to make a decision on the introduction of regulations requiring mandatory public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by businesses. [75975]

Mr Paice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will announce her decision on the corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions later this autumn.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the EU's Food and Veterinary Office on steps to penalise egg producers that are non-compliant with required changes to cages for laying hens. [70244]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 978W.

Ragwort: Poisoning

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the incidence of ragwort poisoning. [75837]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's policy under the Weeds Act 1959 is to control injurious weeds where there is a threat to animal welfare or agricultural activities. However, it is the responsibility of livestock owners, in the first place, to ensure that their grazing land is free of ragwort infestation.

The Weeds Act 1959 allows the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to take statutory action to control the spread of injurious weeds such as Common Ragwort. Natural England investigates complaints about injurious weeds on DEFRA's behalf and issues enforcement notices where appropriate.

Recycling

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to encourage the uptake of kerbside sorting recycling. [76418]

Richard Benyon: The Government are working with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of waste collections and to make it easier to recycle. We strongly believe that the best way to drive up recycling performance is for local authorities to determine the most appropriate form of recycling services for their areas, to reflect local circumstances and demographics. This enables local authorities to work with their residents to deliver recycling services that people will use. The Government will continue to provide advice and support to inform the decisions made by councils, through the work of the Waste and Resources Action Programme and others.

We believe that it is better to provide positive reinforcement to people for doing the right thing than penalise them for doing the wrong thing and that this will encourage householders to make more use of the recycling services on offer. DEFRA has provided funding to local authorities and community organisations to support 16 projects to try new approaches to rewarding those who recycle more.

Travellers: Sewers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Travellers and Gypsies are treated differently from the settled population under regulations and guidance governing the release of sewage into the natural environment. [76882]

Richard Benyon: The discharge of domestic sewage to the natural environment, including waste water arising from normal domestic activities wherever it is carried out, is regulated by the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010. There are no separate provisions in those regulations or accompanying guidance providing for different treatment for Travellers and Gypsies when compared to the settled community.

Connection to a public sewer is the preferred option in all cases. Accordingly, the Environment Agency may or may not permit a discharge to waters from a proposed private sewage treatment facility in a sewered area. Small sewage effluent discharges (5 cubic metres per day or less to surface water or 2 cubic metres per day or less to ground), may qualify for an exemption from permitting.

Waste: Farms

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints her Department has received about odour from the spreading of waste on farmland in each of the last three years; and what the most common cause of those complaints is. [76258]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold a central register of data about complaints of odour from the spreading of waste on farmland. To produce a definitive list of such complaints would incur disproportionate cost.

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of effectiveness of regulation of the practice of injecting treated human waste on productive agricultural land, with regard to *(a)* human health and *(b)* enforcement by local authorities. [76259]

Richard Benyon: The use of treated human waste—known as sewage sludge and septic tank sludge—on land is controlled by the sludge (use in agriculture) regulations, supported by a code of practice for agricultural use of sewage sludge. These statutory controls are enhanced by a voluntary agreement, the Safe Sludge Matrix.

The Food Standards Agency's position is that the application of sewage sludge to agricultural land should not present any unacceptable microbiological risks to food safety, provided it is carried out in compliance with the statutory requirements, the code of practice and the guidance in the Safe Sludge Matrix. This view is based on the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food, which considered the issue in 2002.

The sludge regulations require that:

> "where any untreated sludge has been used on land without being injected into the soil, the occupier of the land affected shall, as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, cause such sludge to be worked into the soil of the land affected."

Though it may be good practice to inject or incorporate treated sludge into the land on which it is being spread, this is not required by the regulations and is not enforceable.

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the practice of injecting treated human waste on agricultural land in EU member states. [76269]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold information on the practice of injecting treated human waste on agricultural land in EU member states, but has access to the three-yearly reports that are submitted by member states about the implementation of directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture. These are available on the Eurostat website.

Circuses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the appendices to the final report of the Zoo Licensing Inspectorate's circus feasibility study. [76894]

Mr Paice: The appendices to the circus feasibility study carried out for DEFRA in 2008 to evaluate the potential of an inspection system for circuses contained three inspection reports conducted as part of the study. These inspections were conducted on a confidential basis, and as a consequence we will not release these reports.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Private Rented Sector

22. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the rent levels in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [77118]

Andrew Stunell: The Government collect and publish extensive data on private sector rents. The most recent information appears in the English Housing Survey Household report, published by my Department in July 2011 and the Valuation Office Agency's Private Rental Market Statistics published last September.

Affordable Housing

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of affordable homes his Department uses in connection with the homes planned under contract through the Affordable Homes Programme; and how many homes which would be classed as affordable under that definition were built in each of the last 25 calendar years. [77229]

Grant Shapps: We said in the Affordable Homes Programme Framework for 2011-15 that affordable homes would be defined as set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (on Housing). We consulted on, and issued a revision to, this statement to incorporate affordable rent in the definition of affordable housing, on 9 June 2011.

This Department publishes live tables on additional affordable housing by financial year. These tables show affordable homes provided (new build and acquired) from 1991-92 to 2010-11:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Civil Disorder

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue lost by each local authority arising from homes and businesses damaged during the public disorder of August 2011; [77692]

(2) what allocations have been made from the recovery fund established following the public disorder of August 2011. [77697]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 27 October 2011 which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2016851

I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

Council Tax

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* council tax relief for second home owners and *(b)* empty property discounts in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [77141]

Robert Neill: The costs to authorities of discounts and exemptions are supported through Formula Grant. Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant and it is not therefore possible to say how much is provided for discounts and exemptions. The total amount of Formula Grant is set during the spending review. Formula Grant is funded from within the local government departmental expenditure limit.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78017]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government does not receive any external funding for his ministerial office or special advisers.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department has made available to local authorities for the purposes of maintaining weekly refuse collection. [76971]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop) on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 61W.

Empty Property

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in each county; and what proportion of homes this figure represents. [77237]

Robert Neill: Details of the number of domestic dwellings reported as empty for council tax purposes in each county in England and the proportion of the total number of domestic dwellings that this represents are shown in the following table. The data are a snapshot taken in October 2010.

The county data only include data for shire district authorities within that county. Data for unitary authorities, metropolitan districts and London boroughs are included in the Rest of England line.

The data are for both short-term and long-term empty dwellings.

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

	Total empty dwellings	*Proportion of dwellings that are vacant (percentage)*
Buckinghamshire	5,059	2.5
Cambridgeshire	6,673	2.6
Cumbria	9,787	4.1
Derbyshire	12,360	3.6
Devon	10,041	2.9
Dorset	5,157	2.7
East Sussex	7,914	3.3
Essex	15,700	2.6
Gloucestershire	8,200	3.1
Hampshire	13,018	2.3
Hertfordshire	10,641	2.3
Kent	19,473	3.1
Lancashire	24,008	4.6
Leicestershire	7,762	2.8
Lincolnshire	11,328	3.5
Norfolk	12,838	3.2
North Yorkshire	9,743	3.6
Northamptonshire	9,117	3.1
Nottinghamshire	12,446	3.6
Oxfordshire	6,797	2.5
Somerset	7,837	3.3
Staffordshire	11,454	3.2
Suffolk	10,097	3.1
Surrey	11,964	2.5
Warwickshire	7,018	3.0
West Sussex	8,937	2.5
Worcestershire	7,103	2.9
All shire counties	282,472	3.0
Rest of England	455,019	3.3
Total England	737,491	3.2

Non-domestic Rates

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on ensuring take-up of small business rate relief. [77688]

Robert Neill: As pledged in the coalition agreement, in order to help authorities increase take-up we are, through the Localism Bill, removing the legal requirement for ratepayers to submit an application form in order to claim the relief. Councils will therefore be free to administer the relief in a way that best serves local businesses and local needs. We are also amending secondary legislation to ensure that all eligible businesses automatically have their bills calculated using the small business multiplier.

In addition, we have doubled small business rate relief until 30 September 2012. Approximately a third of a million ratepayers are paying no rates for that period.

Planning Permission

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many development sites are identified in local development frameworks approved in 2010 and 2011; and whether all local development frameworks approved in 2010 and 2011 include provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites. [77300]

Robert Neill: The Government do not gather this information centrally, as the content of local councils' development plans is a local matter. Local councils' development plans are available for public inspection.

Second Homes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many second homes there are in *(a)* Southwark and *(b)* England. [77304]

Robert Neill: In October 2010, Southwark council reported there were 1,945 dwellings registered as second homes for council tax purposes; at the same time there were 246,000 dwellings registered as second homes for council tax purposes in England.

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local authorities have to provide for Gypsy and Traveller sites following the introduction of new guidelines. [77698]

Robert Neill: The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April. A copy is in the Library of the House. The consultation closed in August. We are currently analysing the responses and intend to publish a new policy in due course.

In the meantime, Circular 01/2006 (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites) and Circular 04/2007 (Planning for Travelling Showpeople) are extant. However, decision-makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is intended to withdraw them and replace them with the draft policy.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislative proposals he plans to bring forward that will affect the obligations of local authorities regarding Gypsy and Traveller sites. [77699]

Robert Neill: The Localism Bill contains a number of measures aimed at decentralising the planning system and shifting power from central Government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. These measures are of general application, and do not apply specifically to Traveller sites.

Such measures include the proposed abolition of regional strategies. This will remove the system of top-down site targets that imposed development on communities and make local authorities responsible for determining the right level of Traveller site provision in their area, in consultation with local communities.

The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April. The consultation closed in August. We are currently analysing the responses and intend to publish a new policy in due course.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of the local authority core strategy is in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites. [77700]

Robert Neill: Existing planning policy for Traveller sites is set out in Circular 01/2006: 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'.

The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April. The draft policy aims to be short, light touch and fair and put the provision of sites back into the hands of local councils in consultation with local communities. The consultation closed in August. We are currently analysing the responses and intend to publish a new policy in due course.

In the meantime, Circular 01/2006 is extant. However, decision makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is intended to withdraw and replace it with the draft policy.

Waste Disposal: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the total amount of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial refuse (i) collected and (ii) recycled in each London borough in each of the last three years. [76969]

Robert Neill: DEFRA holds, data on domestic and commercial refuse handled by local authorities within its WasteDataFlow database. Annual data on all individual English local authorities can be accessed online at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/waste/wrfg23-wrmsannual/

In addition, a national survey of commercial and industrial waste was carried out by DEFRA in 2009. Data on all business waste generated in London boroughs are included in the report which can be accessed via

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/waste/wrfg03-indcom/

The WasteDataFlow data on local authority collected waste demonstrate the overall increase in levels of recycling which our new initiative, the Weekly Collection Support Scheme, will also promote. The scheme will encourage councils to combine better weekly services with improved recycling. Detail on this scheme will be available shortly.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Dignitas

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Law Officers Departments collect information on the number of people from the UK who travel to Dignitas in Switzerland who are *(a)* patients and *(b)* accompanying patients; and if he will make a statement. [77168]

The Attorney-General: None of the Law Officers Departments collects such information.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within the Law Officers Departments' area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73995]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers Departments do not fund any civil sector organisations.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Standards

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average length of time was between a crime being committed and an offender being sentenced in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive; [76818]

(2) what the average time taken was from sentencing to appeal hearing in each year from 1997 to 2011; [76827]

(3) what the average time taken was from the end of a trial to the sentencing in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive; [76828]

(4) what the average time taken was from arrest to charge in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive; [76829]

(5) what the average time taken was from charge to the commencement of a trial in each year from 1997 to 2011 inclusive. [76830]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 provides the average length of time from: (i) the date of arrest to the date of charge; (ii) the date of offence being committed to the date of charge; (iii) the date of charge to the date of first hearing; (iv) the date of first hearing to the date of completion (verdict or sentence); and (v) date of offence to the date of completion, for defendants in charged cases concluding in either the magistrates courts or Crown court from April 2010 to June 2011, the latest date for which statistics are currently available. In addition, the average time taken from the date of offence to date of completion of the case has been provided for defendants in all criminal cases, including summons cases. These statistics are sourced from the administrative data systems used in the courts, and have been produced by linking together records held on the two datasets.

This information is not available prior to April 2010. For the years 1997 to 2010, the available statistics relate to the average time taken from offence to the completion of a defendant's case in the magistrates courts. These are provided in Table 2, and are estimates sourced from the discontinued Time Interval Survey. Since the data are survey data and relate to the completion of a defendant's case in the magistrates courts only, note that these data are not comparable to the figures in Table 1.

Table 3 provides the average waiting time—the time taken from the lodging of an appeal to the first substantial hearing—for appeals dealt with in the Crown court, after receiving a conviction or sentence in the magistrates courts.

Information on the average time from the end of a trial to the sentencing and sentencing to the start of an appeal is not available, as the information required is not on the source data sets used for criminal courts timeliness analysis.

Summary statistics on the timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts and Crown court are published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletins 'Court Statistics Quarterly'. Statistics for the quarter July to September 2011 will be published in January 2012 on the Department's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-quarterly.htm

Table 1: Timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts and Crown court, England and Wales, 1997 to 2010[1,2]

Mean (days)

	Charged cases only					All criminal cases
Magistrates and Crown courts	*Arrest to charge*[3]	*Offence to charge*	*Charge to first hearing*	*First hearing to completion*	*Offence to completion*	*Offence to completion*
2010 (Q2 to Q4)	19	41	16	55	111	151
2011 (Q1 to Q2)	18	38	16	59	114	157

[1] Includes adult and youth defendants

[2] Includes all cases concluded in either the magistrates courts or Crown court during the specified time period and excludes cases completed in magistrates court but not completed in the Crown court. Data are sourced from the linked administrative court data and include around 95% of completed proceedings. These data are only available from April 2010.

[3] The arrest to charge column is a subset of the offence to charge column, so the first four columns will not add up to the overall offence to completion figure for charged cases.

Source:
Libra MIS Timeliness Analysis Report (TAR) and CREST linked court data, HM Courts and Tribunals Service

Table 2: Timeliness of criminal proceedings in the magistrates court, England and Wales, 1997 to 2010[1]

						Mean (days)
	Charged cases only					*All criminal cases*
Magistrates courts only[2,3]	*Arrest to charge*[4,5]	*Offence to charge*	*Charge to first hearing*	*First hearing to completion*	*Offence to completion*	*Offence to completion*
1997	—	27	28	50	106	142
1998	—	28	25	47	100	140
1999	—	31	20	50	101	139
2000	—	30	8	54	91	138
2001	—	30	6	51	87	138
2002	—	30	6	51	87	142
2003	—	31	7	51	89	144
2004	—	32	8	53	93	147
2005	—	38	9	53	100	149
2006	—	41	9	52	102	148
2007	—	38	9	48	95	147
2008	18	40	10	38	88	143
2009	18	41	12	36	88	141
2010	20	42	12	35	89	138

[1] Includes adult and youth defendants.

[2] Estimates based on one week sample for all defendants in criminal proceedings that were completed in the magistrates courts.

[3] Between 1997 and 1999, the results are based on one week period of each June. 1999 is a transitional period and results are now based on two surveys. Those are conducted in February and September. Thereafter, all criminal cases are collected in March and September.

[4] Data from arrest to charge are only available from 2008, because prior to this date, it was not a mandatory requirement to fill in the date of arrest

[5] The arrest to charge column is a subset of the offence to charge column, so the first four columns will not add up to the overall offence to completion figure for charged cases.

Source:

Time Intervals Survey, HM Courts and Tribunals Service One Performance Truth (OPT) system

Table 3: Average waiting times for appellants dealt with[1] *in the Crown court having appealed the decision of a magistrates court, England and Wales, 1997 to 2010*

	Total number appellants of dealt with	*Average waiting time (weeks)*
1997	13,378	8.5
1998	13,558	8.1
1999	12,597	8.1
2000	12,216	7.5
2001	11,089	7.1
2002	10,161	7.2
2003	10,265	7.7
2004	10,710	7.7
2005	10,810	7.5
2006	11,171	7.9
2007	10,933	8.6
2008	12,107	8.7
2009	11,865	8.9
2010	11,937	8.6

[1] Excludes cases abandoned before appearance in court.

Source:

HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

Claims Management Services: Complaints

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, on claims management regulation unit, whether any complaint has been received relating to *(a)* Going Legal Ltd, *(b)* Legal Link Introductory Services Ltd and *(c)* Justice Direct; and when any such complaint was received. [77400]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Pursuant to the answer I gave on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 510-11W, I can confirm that the response to the request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act for the above information has now been sent to the hon. Member's office. A copy of that response has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Coroners

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many responses to the consultation on the Public Bodies Bill were received in relation to the proposals on the Office of Chief Coroner; and how many such responses *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed the proposals on the Office of Chief Coroner. [77296]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill closed on 11 October. Of the 2,742 responses received, 2,646 referred to the Office of the Chief Coroner. 2,607 of these were identical responses from members of the public received via the Royal British Legion campaign website.

The Department intends to publish its response to the consultation by the end of this year. This will contain a summary of the responses received.

Details of the consultation can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-public-bodies.htm

E-mail: Consultation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department has determined the causes of the loss of responses e-mailed to the consultation inbox PBB.Consultation@justice.gsi.gov.uk prior to 20 September 2011; [77206]

(2) on what date his Department *(a)* created and *(b)* activated the mailbox PBB.Consultation@justice.gsi.gov.uk for responses to the consultation on the Public Bodies Bill; [77207]

(3) whether he considered extending the consultation period for the Public Bodies Bill when it had been established that responses sent to the consultation inbox before 20 September 2011 had been lost; [77297]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of responses to the Public Bodies Bill consultation that may have been lost; [77298]

Mr Djanogly: The Public Bodies Bill consultation mailbox was created and activated on 5 July 2011. The consultation was launched on 12 July.

The non-receipt of some responses e-mailed to the mailbox was due to a mailbox migration to the new Ministry of Justice e-mail exchange service prior to the start of the consultation. There were components missing within the mailbox at the point of migration meaning that some e-mails were not redirected from the legacy system to the new system. These e-mails would have been sent back to the sender and they should have received a non-delivery receipt.

Ministers were satisfied that the steps taken once the fault was identified meant that extending the consultation was not necessary. A message was sent to some 7,000 stakeholders on 23 September advising them of the fault and requesting that any responses submitted via e-mail were re-sent. A similar message was placed on the consultation page on the Ministry of Justice website. E-mail was not the only available method of submitting responses to the consultation and the fault did not affect the receipt of hard copy responses or the use of the questionnaire that could be completed on the Ministry of Justice website.

It is not possible to ascertain how many responses were not received. However, only one response was re-submitted that had not already been received.

Details of the consultation can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-public-bodies.htm

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77364]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has recorded the loss or theft of *(a)* 127 computers and hard drives, *(c)* 71 BlackBerrys and *(d)* 293 other items of IT equipment between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2011. Information on the number of *(b)* mobile telephones lost is not held centrally, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Ministry of Justice laptops and BlackBerrys are encrypted and protected with a complex password; and all BlackBerrys that are registered as lost or stolen are blocked remotely, making it impossible for them to be used. The Ministry also implements security incident management procedures to ensure that the impacts of incidents are risk managed and investigations are undertaken to seek, where possible, to retrieve lost/stolen assets.

The Ministry adopts government security policy framework requirements to protect its assets securely.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in the last 12 months. [77148]

Mr Djanogly: Pursuant to the answer given to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Nia Griffith) on 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 380-81W, the Ministry of Justice has identified the following key characteristics to define a helpline:

That the telephone line provides tailored advice or guidance to citizens or businesses (as distinct from communicating simple, standard information, or providing a transactional service)

That the telephone line is citizen or business facing

Using this definition, there are currently four helplines funded by the Ministry of Justice, as follows:

1. Legal Services Commission Community Legal Advice helpline

This provides free help including specialist legal advice and ongoing case work relating to debt, housing, employment, education and welfare benefits, tax credits and family issues for those eligible for legal aid.

Budget allocation: approximately £23,000,000

Number of calls received in 2010-11: 631,221 (latest complete figures)

2. Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority helpline

This provides tailored advice on applying for criminal injuries compensation.

Budget allocation: £1,177,516

Number of calls received in the year to September 2011: 220,348

3. Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) Customer Contact Centre

This provides advice relating to OPG services, including the registration of Lasting Powers of Attorney; the supervision of Deputies appointed by the Court of Protection; and the Public Guardian's role in adult safeguarding.

Budget allocation: £723,000[1]

Number of calls received in the year to September 2011: 228,567.

4. Court Funds Office helpline

This provides tailored advice to clients and stakeholders.

Budget allocation: £250,000[1]

Number of calls received in the year to September 2011: 68,900

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[1] OPG and CFO are both self-funding organisations and consequently reimburse these costs.

Dignitas

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department collects information on the number of people from the UK who travel to Dignitas in Switzerland who are *(a)* patients and *(b)* accompanying patients; and if he will make a statement. [77169]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not collect this information.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine was imposed by courts in each criminal justice area for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in the latest period for which figures are available. [77552]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants sentenced to a fine and the average (median) fine amount given at all courts by police force area, for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, in England and Wales for 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of defendants sentenced to a fine and the median[1] fine amount imposed at all courts for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[2], by police force area, England and Wales 2010[3,4]

Number of defendants sentenced to a fine and the median[1] fine amount imposed at all courts for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[2], by police force area, England and Wales 2010[3,4]

Police force area	*Fines issued*	*Average fine amount (median) (£)*
Avon and Somerset	1,508	173
Bedfordshire	1,350	200
Cambridgeshire	894	200
Cheshire	2,408	290
City of London	367	350
Cleveland	836	165
Cumbria	812	196
Derbyshire	1,683	240
Devon and Cornwall	2,196	200
Dorset	1,400	250
Durham	1,040	150
Essex	3,272	200
Gloucestershire	643	200
Greater Manchester	4,271	180
Hampshire	2,820	200
Hertfordshire	2,465	235
Humberside	1,766	170
Kent	3,343	320
Lancashire	3,467	280
Leicestershire	1,336	200
Lincolnshire	1,210	213
Merseyside	3,663	175
Metropolitan Police	21,449	290
Norfolk	1,084	200
North Yorkshire	961	200
Northamptonshire	1,438	300
Northumbria	2,812	160
Nottinghamshire	1,116	200
South Yorkshire	3,002	170
Staffordshire	1,598	200
Suffolk	923	210
Surrey	1,929	300
Sussex	2,122	200
Thames Valley	2,042	210
Warwickshire	1,212	323
West Mercia	1,588	205
West Midlands	5,912	200
West Yorkshire	5,631	230
Wiltshire	887	285
Dyfed-Powys	985	200
Gwent	714	163
North Wales	1,463	280
South Wales	3,484	185
England and Wales	105,082	200

[1] The average fine amount is calculated using a median measure, i.e. the middle value in the ordered list of values.

[2] Includes offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988. s.143(2).

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost per *(a)* place and *(b)* prisoner was in each publicly-run prison in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [76833]

Mr Blunt: The table provides overall average resource cost per place and cost per prisoner at each public sector prison for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 as published in the National Offender Management Service Annual Reports of 2009-10 and 2010-11 under each year's Management Information Addendum.

Cost per place is overall resource expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation, and cost per prisoner is overall resource expressed in terms of average prisoner population.

Figures for the two years are not directly comparable due to changes in accounting treatment arising from the Government's Clear Line of Sight initiative.

Cost by establishment (overall resource expenditure)

£

	2010-11		2009-10	
Establishment name	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Acklington	29,497	31,424	32,238	32,632
Ashwell	19,461	56,425	26,868	80,004
Askham Grange	30,127	37,322	36,963	47,120
Aylesbury	42,158	43,286	48,173	48,716
Bedford	50,854	34,293	55,072	37,462
Belmarsh	67,839	63,736	75,750	69,310
Birmingham	38,312	29,471	41,301	31,789
Blantyre House	35,684	36,203	38,961	39,749
Blundeston	36,412	36,044	40,555	37,568
Brinsford	39,374	41,070	44,890	47,853
Bristol	49,514	35,235	52,476	36,600
Brixton	53,251	40,295	48,550	38,527
Buckley Hall	38,981	35,793	42,720	39,227
Bullingdon	36,946	29,789	41,764	33,607
Bullwood Hall	42,495	41,845	49,204	45,873
Bure	32,682	31,982	109,546	111,201
Canterbury	57,273	36,899	61,366	39,000
Cardiff	49,215	33,336	54,131	36,747
Castington	43,318	88,746	52,065	60,350
Channings Wood	31,851	30,985	34,648	33,411
Chelmsford	44,151	36,557	47,774	39,200
Coldingley	40,804	39,640	44,205	43,121
Cookham Wood	85,588	106,043	81,847	127,269
Dartmoor	31,579	38,002	34,264	35,691
Deerbolt	39,640	42,029	44,363	47,703
Dorchester	66,648	42,709	73,445	45,723
Down view	39,114	46,139	45,160	47,078
Drake Hall	35,208	37,279	37,406	42,257
Durham	50,979	33,177	55,904	34,886
East Sutton Park	39,390	43,251	43,941	48,842
Eastwood Park	45,464	47,244	48,216	52,062
Edmunds Hill	33,139	34,646	37,728	38,943
Erlestoke	31,019	36,700	33,824	34,176
Everthorpe	30,985	27,897	34,911	31,187
Exeter	54,503	33,589	59,195	35,715
Featherstone	30,813	31,756	33,539	33,796
Feltham	56,315	63,471	63,523	74,041
Ford	33,415	37,239	27,118	27,998
Foston Hall	43,659	50,648	49,262	60,679
Frankland	60,626	63,400	72,752	75,600
Full Sutton	64,379	65,675	73,854	75,480
Garth	34,661	33,754	39,467	38,546
Gartree	36,251	36,647	38,708	39,196
Glen Parva	39,790	35,420	43,029	36,392
Gloucester	52,465	40,039	56,954	42,432
Grendon and Springhill	34,272	37,615	38,092	43,208
Guys Marsh	31,621	32,204	36,306	33,034
Haverigg	30,395	30,298	34,014	34,598
Hewell	35,329	30,343	39,681	33,639
Highdown	34,066	32,217	41,548	38,361
Highpoint	29,060	28,653	31,744	31,609
Hindley	48,311	78,476	46,121	83,685
HMP Kennet	111,933	57,825	125,723	65,013
Hollesley Bay	28,618	29,163	32,676	33,510
Holloway	49,508	58,392	59,471	72,837
Holme House	34,527	35,176	41,394	36,946
Hull	41,629	30,983	47,478	34,176
Huntercombe	26,049	63,695	52,943	81,977
Isis	78,350	104,288	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight	37,151	35,102	39,549	37,095

Cost by establishment (overall resource expenditure)

£

Establishment name	*2010-11* *Cost per place*	*2010-11* *Cost per prisoner*	*2009-10* *Cost per place*	*2009-10* *Cost per prisoner*
Kingston	43,254	43,564	46,629	50,180
Kirkham	30,626	30,918	34,651	34,977
Kirklevington Grange	28,657	29,843	31,737	33,132
Lancaster Castle	63,146	42,828	60,996	41,269
Lancaster Farms	45,017	43,763	54,941	51,743
Latchmere House	31,016	32,222	34,783	36,151
Leeds	41,379	31,292	45,513	33,080
Leicester	59,958	36,373	63,304	37,238
Lewes	34,803	45,970	39,485	38,446
Leyhill	28,482	30,104	31,304	32,907
Lincoln	48,082	34,733	51,409	34,388
Lindholme (+IRC)	29,028	28,022	34,469	32,757
Littlehey	30,614	31,245	38,894	36,380
Liverpool	30,931	29,687	33,311	29,862
Long Lartin	60,345	62,052	66,373	69,331
Low Newton	47,856	62,030	50,963	57,340
Maidstone	30,908	29,437	34,727	33,345
Manchester	51,287	41,401	54,201	42,589
Moorland	31,558	35,530	37,346	36,794
Morton Hall	28,564	43,807	32,985	37,236
Mount (The)	32,479	31,781	37,558	36,803
New Hall	49,710	52,221	56,954	61,821
North Sea Camp	28,217	29,039	28,166	29,358
Northallerton	53,372	40,459	58,942	38,352
Norwich	37,723	31,711	47,457	40,743
Nottingham	47,299	34,197	68,662	47,697
Onley	33,367	34,059	37,275	39,027
Pentonville	45,008	34,078	50,035	38,927
Portland	34,153	43,698	37,677	42,813
Preston	54,369	32,139	60,265	36,083
Ranby	32,966	29,787	35,618	32,114
Reading	58,780	47,626	66,632	50,556
Risley	28,291	27,493	32,032	31,297
Rochester	32,254	36,498	35,842	39,217
Send	42,477	43,585	46,900	48,431
Sheppey	32,168	29,894	38,331	37,102
Shepton Mallet	49,061	43,059	55,216	48,376
Shrewsbury	62,457	36,205	66,038	40,335
Stafford	28,400	28,827	30,824	31,029
Stocken	31,189	29,235	33,973	32,764
Stoke Heath	37,060	42,708	39,642	42,883
Styal	40,126	42,660	46,522	49,066
Sudbury	22,517	22,808	25,553	25,913
Swansea	61,612	37,154	63,886	39,909
Swinfen Hall	34,461	33,369	38,436	37,398
Thorn Cross	36,295	40,995	41,098	46,003
Usk	40,402	30,801	43,848	33,139
Verne (The)	27,980	27,230	30,488	29,587
Wakefield	51,927	52,731	56,070	57,058
Wandsworth	43,083	29,423	47,898	32,015
Warren Hill	58,271	88,302	61,047	75,995
Wayland	28,210	26,916	31,008	29,794
Wealstun	33,501	36,972	34,420	54,177
Wellingborough	27,898	34,251	32,865	32,947
Werrington	57,860	76,404	60,599	73,546
Wetherby	51,859	63,891	53,937	66,669
Whatton	32,570	31,045	35,450	33,592
Whitemoor	83,509	88,460	91,658	100,818
Winchester	42,003	31,066	46,593	33,607
Woodhill	68,161	56,929	75,454	62,175

Cost by establishment (overall resource expenditure)

£

	2010-11		2009-10	
Establishment name	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Wormwood Scrubs	34,143	32,051	38,559	35,584
Wymott	29,732	28,559	34,501	33,088
Average total	39,175	37,251	43,854	40,784

Notes:

1. Displayed figures are subject to rounding.
2. The unit cost measurement used is based on overall cost which includes prison related overheads met centrally by NOMS, for example, property costs including depreciation (and cost of capital for 2009-10), major maintenance, prisoner escort and custody service (relates to transporting prisoners) and central HQ overheads. This involves some estimation.
3. Data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside are reported under the Sheppey cluster; data for Parkhurst, Camphill and Albany are reported under the Isle of Wight cluster; similarly, data for Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange is reported together as a cluster.
4. Dover and Haslar are not included as they are Immigration Removal Centres operating under Detention Centre Rules 2001.
5. Lindholme includes Lindholme IDC as it is a split site, part Category C Training Prison and part Immigration Removal Centre.
6. The following expenditure is not included:

impairment charges, including the revaluation of land and buildings (2009-10: £525 million; 2010-11: £6.9 million);
Operation Safeguard (use of police cells);
cost of capital on assets in the course of construction (2009-10: £22.5 million);
project, operating and commissioning costs at HMPYOI Isis in 2009-10 (£2.7 million), as the establishment was not opened during the course of year;
costs associated with Probation (2010-11: £1,038 million);
electronic monitoring (2010-11: £112.5 million);
payment to Department of Health towards Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (2010-11: £22 million).

7. For certain prisons the unit cost is not typical, because they were in the process of change, e.g. Isis (2010-11) and Bure (2009-10) were building up capacity during the respective years.

Probation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has any plans to reduce the number of probation trusts through mergers; and if he will make a statement; [76822]

(2) whether he has any plans to transfer responsibilities for probation services in England and Wales to *(a)* Police and Criminal Justice Commissioners and *(b)* local authorities. [76823]

Mr Blunt: We are engaged in looking at the future shape of probation services in England and Wales, with the aim of improving justice outcomes. This involves looking at a range of options for service improvements and different models for delivering offender services within the community. This work is contributing to wider work we are undertaking to find further efficiencies across all justice services.

We will ensure that our proposals are aligned with our priorities for the broader justice sector—including increasing competition, taking forward payment-by-results, and changes to wider structures and accountability at local level—as well as with the Government's priority to open up public services to a range of providers, including mutuals.

We intend to announce the outcome later in the autumn.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to review the facilities management contract for probation trusts. [76825]

Mr Blunt: A review of the Home Office shared estates services currently provided to the probation estate on behalf of the Ministry of Justice is under way.

Current facilities management contracts are due to expire in 2013 and options for the future delivery of estate services to probation are currently being looked at.

Probation: Advisory Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the potential role of the *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* private sector in offering probation services advice. [77562]

Mr Blunt: Under section 4 of the Offender Management Act 2007, arrangements for probation provision that relates to the giving of advice and assistance to the courts on sentencing or other matters may only be made with a probation trust or other public body.

We are taking forward work on the nature of probation services in England and Wales and are considering various models for delivering offender services in the community. It is a wide-ranging review, which is looking at the structure of probation services and how they are commissioned and delivered. How the voluntary and private sectors can contribute to the future development of probation services will form part of that consideration. We intend to set out our preferred approach later in the autumn.

Probation: Mental Illness

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the Probation Service to support offenders with mental health problems. [77563]

Mr Blunt: The national health service is responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of offenders with mental health problems. Probation trusts work with primary care trusts to identify the level of support required by offenders with mental health needs.

The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are working with the Department of Health to ensure that, where appropriate, offenders with mental health problems are diverted from the criminal justice system at an early stage. We aim to ensure that liaison and diversion services are available in police custody suites and at courts by 2014.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to introduce comprehensive mental health training for all probation staff who work with offenders who have specific mental health needs; and if he will make a statement. [77564]

Mr Blunt: Probation staff are trained to work with a wide range of offenders who have complex needs, including mental health needs. The Offender Assessment System is a structured framework which assists offender managers to assess the risks and needs of offenders and to develop sentence- and risk-management plans that are appropriate and robust.

Identifying a possible mental health need and referring the offender for specialist assessment are a critical part of the offender management role. However, offenders with mental health needs are best managed by means of a cross-agency approach, involving mental health professionals.

Probation: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to improve professional training for probation staff. [76824]

Mr Blunt: The introduction of the Probation Qualification Framework (PQF) in 2010 provided a contemporary professional qualification pathway that includes provision for all offender facing staff delivering probation services. The PQF has been welcomed by stakeholders and is underpinned by a comprehensive Regulatory Framework, quality assured by the Probation Qualification Assurance Board. The Justice Select Committee on the Role of the Probation Service commented favourably on the PQF model in their report published earlier this year and it is therefore considered to be fit for purpose.

Post qualification professional training is a joint responsibility between NOMS and probation employers. Where appropriate, NOMS provides a central training model for local implementation e.g. in the case of accredited programmes tutor training.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence *(a)* who attended and *(b)* what topics were discussed during meetings on official business with representatives of the Sri Lankan Government at which Mr Werritty was present. [75411]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Secretary's report "Allegations against the Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP" published on 18 October 2011 and available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/allegations-against-rt-hon-dr-liam-fox-mp-report-cabinet-secretary

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish emails between himself and Mr Adam Werritty pertaining to official business. [75413]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I have neither sent nor received any emails to or from Mr Werritty.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what times and dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his special advisers and *(c)* his private office have had telephone or email contact in an official capacity with Mr Adam Werritty since his appointment. [75417]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* There has been no contact between Mr Werritty and me, my special advisers, or my Private Office since my appointment.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether minutes were kept of a meeting in September 2010 between the right hon. Member for North Somerset, then Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Matthew Gould, then UK Ambassador Designate to Israel, and Mr Adam Werritty. [76611]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* They were not.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a comparative assessment of the cost of military training programmes offered to allies by the UK and the cost of such programmes offered by *(a)* France, *(b)* the US, *(c)* Italy, *(d)* Germany and *(e)* Spain; and if he will make a statement. [75664]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold data relating to the costs of equivalent training programmes offered by France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA. It is therefore not possible to make a cost comparison between training programmes offered by the UK and broadly equivalent programmes provided by those countries.

Where training places are made available on courses offered by our allies which are considered to be of the highest security co-operation value we have in place reciprocal training arrangements whereby training costs are waived by the respective host country. Consequently no payments are made and the cost of the course remains effectively invisible. The MOD has such reciprocal agreements with France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the USA covering one of our key courses, the Advanced Command and Staff Course run by the UK Defence Academy.

Chelsfield Ammunition Depot

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department's agent followed the full Crichel Down Rules in respect of advertising and for sale notices prior to the sale of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot; [76151]

(2) for what reasons his Department and its agent did not obtain full planning permission for the Chelsfield Ammunition Depot site prior to its sale; [76152]

(3) what estimate his Department was given of the potential value with class B planning permission of the Chelsfield Ammunition Depot prior to its disposal; [76153]

(4) for what reasons his Department's agent did not seek a formal written response from the local planning authority prior to the sale of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot. [76154]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Crichel Down Rules were fully complied with. In accordance with the rules, the former owner of the Chelsfield site was identified and approached, but declined those areas that were offered back.

Given that the development potential for the site was limited, a planning application was not progressed, as to do so would not provide value for money. For similar reasons no valuation of the site with planning permission was obtained, as it was not sold with any such planning permission.

I refer my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon), to the answer the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave on 13 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 496W.

As the sale was on an informal tender basis and no formal planning designation was sought, prospective bidders were in a position to make their own inquiries with the local planning authority as to planning potential for the site.

Defence Equipment

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects to publish the White Paper on equipment, security and technology for UK Defence and Security. [76995]

Peter Luff: We intend to publish a White Paper on technology, equipment, and support for UK defence and security by the end of the year.

Dubai

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have returned from Afghanistan via Dubai. [76189]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Twice since May 2010.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73217]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Ex-servicemen: Training

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed services personnel receive any advice on *(a)* education courses or training, *(b)* employment, *(c)* housing and *(d)* welfare benefits prior to leaving the armed services. [76659]

Mr Robathan: Yes. All service leavers are entitled to some form of resettlement advice, whatever their rank and length of service. Further support is available to eligible personnel from the Career Transition Partnership (a partnership between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Right Management) through training courses which are free from tuition fees; career transition workshops; employment and future career advice; assistance with CV writing and job preparation; vocational training; and a job-search/recruitment facility.

Specialist housing advice is provided by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office. This has been established to provide service personnel and their families with information and advice on the wide range of civilian housing options. These include: Homebuy Direct, New Home Build Buy and First Buy, for which members of the armed forces are given the highest priority.

Each Job Centre district has an armed forces champion who has up-to-date knowledge of armed forces issues in the local area and will also provide support to veterans. Welfare benefits are a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions but advice and assistance in accessing benefits is available from the MOD's Veterans Welfare Service.

Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in Argentina on the Falkland Islands. [77079]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have not had any discussions with my counterpart in Argentina.

Geneva Convention

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal review on the L27 and L26 120mm Depleted Uranium ammunition undertaken in accordance with Article 36 in Amended Protocol 1 of the Geneva convention. [73432]

Nick Harvey: A legal review of this type was not required for munitions which entered service before the date on which the UK ratified Additional Protocol I to the Geneva conventions. However, I have instructed my officials to carry out the review.

HMS Endurance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the earliest in-service date for HMS Endurance. [70331]

Peter Luff: No decision has yet been made on whether to repair or to dispose of HMS Endurance. A decision on the ship's future is anticipated to be made in 2012.

HMS Protector

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original estimated cost to the public purse was of equipping HMS Protector to fully operational status; and what recent estimate he has made of the cost of such equipping. [70329]

Peter Luff: The contract for the lease of HMS Protector, worth £26 million over three years, also includes full contractor support and some fitting or refurbishment of equipment for use by the Royal Navy. In addition to this, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has estimated that a further £3.2 million would need to be spent to fit military task equipment such as survey boats and communications equipment.

The £26 million figure will remain unchanged over the life of the initial contract and the MOD currently estimates that the fitting of military task equipment will cost £3.7 million.

Navy

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of *(a)* spare parts (stores and equipment), *(b)* specialist and general tools and *(c)* other equipment disposed of by the (i) Royal Navy, (ii) Royal Fleet Auxiliary and (iii) Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy due to surplus requirements in the last year for which figures are available. [70333]

Peter Luff: The information is not held in the format requested. The figures provided in the following table represent the net book values (the net book value is the cost of the asset minus depreciation) of equipment declared surplus in the financial year ending 31 March 2011.

The figures provided under the first two categories are not held by individual fleets (Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Fleet Air Arm).

Asset category	*Value (£ million)*
Engineering and Technical Equipment[1]	103
General Stores[2]	6
Other equipment (Royal Navy)	571
Other Equipment (Royal Fleet Auxiliary)	270
Other Equipment (Fleet Air Arm)	10

[1] Includes spare parts (stores and equipment).

[2] Includes specialist and general tools

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to improve procurement procedures in the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Marines, *(c)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary and *(d)* Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy. [70336]

Peter Luff: The majority of procurement for the naval service is conducted by the Ministry of Defence's specialist procurement organisations: Defence Equipment and Support, for equipment acquisition and support; and Defence Infrastructure Organisation, for provision and support of infrastructure and estates. In addition, a central team undertakes procurement for the whole Department for a number of services including medical services, consultancy and manpower substitution.

Services and equipment not provided by the principal organisations, largely comprising soft facilities management (including but not limited to catering, retail and leisure, training and training support) and support to naval service units overseas, is procured as necessary by the Navy Command Headquarters. All procurement conducted within the Navy Command is subject to the same framework as procurement elsewhere in the Department.

Recent developments aimed at improving procurement of the services include the establishment of a team to develop and roll out a Navy Command procurement process with the objective of harmonising and simplifying procurement activity initiated throughout the naval service. This team is drawing upon experience in other parts of the Department and lessons learned in recent procurements. The Navy Command is also participating in pan-Department initiatives in respect of future hard and soft facilities management, use of pan-Department or pan-Government enabling arrangements and introducing a number of e-tools as part of an improvement programme.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on nuclear weapons policy with staff of Atlantic Bridge since May 2010. [75033]

Mr Philip Hammond: None.

Territorial Army

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 885-86, on the Territorial Army, how much has been spent under each budget heading on the scheme enabling employers to apply for financial assistance to cover certain costs of replacing a reservist employee if they are mobilised since the inception of the scheme. [76406]

Mr Robathan: Since April 2005, the following sums have been paid to employers, as financial assistance to cover the costs of replacing reservist employees in the Territorial Army when they are mobilised. A breakdown by year is shown in the following table. All expenditure is recorded against a single budget heading entitled "Employers Financial Assistance".

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2005-06	590,276
2006-07	349,455
2007-08	455,333
2008-09	558,834
2009-10	366,844
2010-11	435,284
2011-12 (from 1 April to 20 October 2011)	211,627

Trident Submarines

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the necessity of maintaining continuous at-sea deployment by at least one UK Trident submarine for the maintenance of an effective nuclear deterrent policy. [75980]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* As the Prime Minister made clear on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 295, Continuous at Sea Deterrence (CASD) remains the backbone of our deterrence posture, ensuring a credible and capable deterrent against blackmail and acts of aggression against the UK's vital interests including her NATO allies. CASD is the UK's most enduring current operation and has been successfully delivered for over 40 years.

As announced by my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 351, we have approved initial gate investment in respect of the replacement programme and selected a submarine design.

As my predecessor also announced on 18 May 2011, a study is being conducted to examine alternative systems and postures in accordance with the provision in the coalition agreement.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Firearms

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private protection individuals working for wealthy Russian citizens living in the UK are licensed to carry firearms or other weapons. [76116]

Nick Herbert: Section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) makes it unlawful to manufacture, sell, transfer, purchase, acquire or possess, without the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, any prohibited weapon or ammunition.

It has been the policy of successive Governments that requests for the possession and carriage of firearms for personal protection purposes are refused on the grounds that these are not an acceptable means of protection in Great Britain.

Antisocial Behaviour

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals her Department consulted as part of its antisocial behaviour review. [77208]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office review included informal discussions with a range of organisations and practitioners involved in tackling antisocial behaviour, representing police forces, local authorities and registered social landlords.

Arms Trade: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department attended the recent Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. [76649]

James Brokenshire: I attended the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition. Information available indicates that a total of 12 Home Office officials attended. This included the Director of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Director for the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology alongside 10 non-SCS officials.

Arrests: Ex-servicemen

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether people who are arrested and detained in a custody suite are routinely asked whether they have been in the armed services. [77153]

Nick Herbert: No.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the costs to her Department and police authorities in respect of security for the proposed badger cull. [75787]

Nick Herbert: We are in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs regarding any police response and associated costs related to badger culling.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the classification of *(a)* cannabis and *(b)* high THC cannabis; and if she will make a statement. [77212]

James Brokenshire: No recent assessment on the classification of cannabis and high THC cannabis has been commissioned by the Home Office.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs last advised the Government on cannabis: classification and public health in its report published at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/acmd/

In line with its statutory duty under section 1(2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the Advisory Council keeps under review the situation in the UK with respect to controlled drugs.

Civil Disorder

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to those involved in public disorder during the summer. [77210]

James Brokenshire: Statistical data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are collected and collated by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The data do not detail the specific circumstances which lead to an ASBO being issued. It is therefore not possible to determine whether an ASBO was issued as a result of a defendant's participation in the recent public disorder, or for other reasons. That information could only be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Community Policing

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies for sergeants there are within safer neighbourhoods teams in England and Wales. [76716]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* Information on police officer vacancies is not collected centrally.

Convictions: CCTV

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of people who have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted as a result of CCTV evidence in each of the last five years; and what the offences were in each case. [77320]

James Brokenshire: Information on the evidence leading to arrests and convictions is not held centrally.

Crime Prevention

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis was for the development of the domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence risk identification checklist. [76948]

Lynne Featherstone: The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based Violence (DASH) Model (2009) was developed by Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) from the good practice of previous risk assessment models. It was also informed by a comprehensive literature review, consultation with national and international academic experts and practitioners, officer/practitioner and victim focus groups and piloting in several areas.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* evidence and *(b)* research her Department has evaluated on the effect of the use of (i) SPECSS+ and (ii) DASH by police services on levels of domestic homicide, serious incidents and repeat victimisation. [76949]

Nick Herbert: There has been no evaluation by the Home Office of the effect of the use of (i) SPECSS+ and (ii) DASH by police services.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police services have fully implemented the domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence risk identification checklist. [76993]

Lynne Featherstone: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) agreed that the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model could be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009. Although we understand that the majority of forces currently use DASH it is for individual forces to decide which risk assessment models to use and the training their officers and staff receive.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used in deciding which domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence crimes are referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. [76994]

Lynne Featherstone: Agencies referring cases to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) use an evidence based risk assessment tool to establish if the victim is at high risk of harm. The threshold for high risk is determined by each local area.

Efficiency Gains

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to deliver the efficiency gains required by HM Treasury. [77043]

Damian Green *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The Home Office is delivering efficiency gains by having the right systems and controls in place for budget allocation, robust business planning, scrutiny of spending proposals, investment decisions, monitoring and challenging discretionary spend, interventions to improve productivity and value for money in our activities, managed work force reductions and improved procurement of goods and services.

Firearms: Young People

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 10 were awarded a shotgun licence in each police authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [71613]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The total number of shotgun certificates granted to children less than 10 years of age is set out in the following table. This table covers the calendar years for which the data are currently available (2008-10).

The data were extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) by the National Policing Improvement Agency. The NFLMS holds data on the firearms and shotgun certificates issued by police forces in England and Wales. These data are provisional, normally used for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks applied to datasets used for National Statistics.

Number of shotgun certificates issued to those aged under 10 years of age, by force (2008-10)

	Force	Number
2008	Bedfordshire Police	2
	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	1
	Cumbria Constabulary	3
	Essex Police	2
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	1
	Hampshire Constabulary	1
	Lancashire Constabulary	2
	Northamptonshire Police	1
	Sussex Police	1

Number of shotgun certificates issued to those aged under 10 years of age, by force (2008-10)

	Force	Number
	West Mercia Constabulary	1
	Total	15
2009	Avon and Somerset Constabulary	1
	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	1
	Kent Police	1
	Northamptonshire Police	1
	Sussex Police	1
	Total	5
2010	Avon and Somerset Constabulary	1
	Dyfed Powys Police	1
	Kent Police	2
	Norfolk Constabulary	2
	Sussex Police	1
	Warwickshire Police	1
	West Mercia Constabulary	2
	West Midlands Police	1
	Total	11

Immigrants: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women detained for immigration purposes in 2010-11 had children living in the UK and were separated from those children during their detention. [76663]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* The information sought is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can be obtained through examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency has a policy of not separating parents from children although it will sometimes have to deal with circumstances in which such a separation has already taken place. Separation is always in exceptional circumstances and only after full consideration has been given to possible alternatives. A key consideration is to ensure that no child is left unaccompanied by a responsible adult/carer.

In cases where a parent detained in an immigration removal centre has a child in the community, the UK Border Agency will seek to facilitate contact between the parent and child, subject to the wishes of the family, and in liaison with the local authority where appropriate.

Internet: Regulation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and *(b)* industry representatives in respect of seeking solutions in responding to offensive and criminal material online; and if she will make a statement. [77195]

James Brokenshire: Ministers across Government, including from the Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), meet regularly with each other and with representatives of the private sector to co-ordinate a robust response to online issues facing the UK. An example of this joint working is the ministerially-chaired UK Council for Child Internet Safety, which brings together experts from a range of sectors including industry, charities, academia and law enforcement. Ministers also continue to discuss such issues with their European counterparts. The London Conference on Cyberspace, to be hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 1-2 November, will expand the international dimension of this work and launch a focused and inclusive dialogue to help guide the behaviour of all in cyberspace.

Organised Crime

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to report to the House on her work on a cross-government programme of action to deal with gang culture, as indicated in the Prime Minister's statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1051-55, on public disorder. [77310]

James Brokenshire: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, intends to report to the House on a cross-government programme to deal with the gang culture and serious youth violence shortly.

Police: Equality

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had on gender equality on police and crime panels in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last year. [76292]

Nick Herbert: As part of the Equality Impact Assessment Report for Police and Crime Commissioners, we considered the equality implications for police and crime panels.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act sets out a "balanced appointment objective" that must, as far as is reasonably practicable, be met in establishing a panel. This includes securing a panel that represents 'all parts of the relevant police force area'.

In England, it will be the responsibility of the local authorities to secure the balanced appointment objective. In Wales, the Home Secretary will work with local authorities in order to achieve this.

Police: Manpower

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foot patrols by police officers working *(a)* alone and *(b)* in pairs were conducted in each London borough between September 2008 and September 2011. [76717]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* Information on numbers of foot patrols is not collected centrally.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing Reform

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration she has given to redrafting the draft ATOL regulations to exclude Flight Plus arrangements sold by airlines from the requirement to provide financial protection. [74087]

Mrs Villiers: The view of the Government is that the powers currently vested in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport to make regulations on the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme do not entitle her to require airlines to provide financial protection for Flight Plus holidays.

I am currently considering all the issues raised in response to the recent consultation on proposals to reform the ATOL scheme, including any amendments to the draft ATOL regulations needed to reflect accurately the Government's position.

In response to industry concerns and to ensure that the reforms are implemented fully and effectively, I announced on 25 October that the new ATOL regulations will not now come into force on 1 January, as originally proposed. Instead I intend to implement the reforms in April 2012. I plan to announce the final decisions on the details of the reforms later in the year.

M4: Bus Lanes

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the effects of the removal of the M4 bus lane on motorists using the section of the M4 between its eastern terminus and Heathrow Airport. [76962]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The Highways Agency suspended the M4 bus lane on the M4 eastbound between junction 3 and 2 in November 2010 and is continuing to assess its effects. Interim findings suggest that there is an overall journey time saving in the order of 60 seconds for drivers travelling eastbound on the M4 between junction 4 (for Heathrow airport) and junction 1 (where the M4 terminates into the A4). Further detailed analysis and data collection is being carried out to complete a full year's review. The Agency aims to complete this work for publication in early 2012.

The suspension of the M4 bus lane should not impact on traffic using the M4 westbound between junction 2 and 3, or on the M4 Heathrow Spur from junction 4 to junction 4a (which has a dedicated bus lane) to terminals 1, 2 and 3, or from the M25 to terminals 4 and 5.

Motorways: Congestion

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on motorway congestion in area 10 of the network of a reduction in the managing agent's contractual funding. [73855]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is looking to meet its spending review 2010 settlement using a new outcome-based specification with service providers. An overarching requirement is for the service providers to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic to ensure that these changes do not increase motorway congestion.

Motorways: Accidents

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to the economy of time taken to clear accidents from motorways after the reduction in the incident support unit service. [73826]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has moved to an outcome based specification which allows its service providers to innovate and choose how best to deal with clearing the accident. As part of the new outcome based specifications, performance measures are based around incident clearance times rather than incident response by the incident support unit service, bringing estimated cashable savings of £11 million per annum. There are specified clearance times for reopening the motorway and it is expected that the new specifications will bring improved incident clear up times and economic benefits by focusing the service providers on swift incident resolution.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of incident support units in reducing delays and congestion on motorways; and if she will make a statement. [73853]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has reviewed the effectiveness of incident support units and established that the existing service is not providing value for money in the current economic climate. In the future it will target motorways that suffer from delay and use the most appropriate vehicles and equipment to clear accidents.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on the safety of Highways Agency traffic officers of reducing incident support unit services; and if she will make a statement. [73854]

Mike Penning: When reviewing the specification of incident support units, the Highways Agency maintained a key objective of ensuring the safety of all road users. Service providers will still be required to establish timely and appropriate traffic management to protect both road users and the traffic officer service.

Motorways: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* Warrington's economy of delays and congestion on adjacent motorways and *(b)* delays and congestion on motorways around Warrington of reducing the incident support unit service; and if she will make a statement. [73827]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is moving to an outcome-based specification which allows its service providers to innovate and choose how best to deal with clearing the scene after an incident. There are specified clearance times for reopening the motorway which should bring economic benefits, both nationally and in the north-west.

Network Rail: Standards

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Office of Rail Regulation's assessment of Network Rail's financial performance and efficiencies for 2010-11, what assessment her Department has made of Network Rail's performance in achieving track renewal efficiencies in 2010-11. [77673]

Mrs Villiers: The Department makes no such assessment. The independent Office of Rail Regulation assesses Network Rail's progress on a continuous basis against the efficiency targets set for each control period.

Oil: Carbon Emissions

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what information she has received from Ministers in the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the viability of UK oil refineries if a common default value is not applied to crude oil; whether she has sought guidance from Ministerial colleagues in the Department of Energy and Climate Change in relation to her Department's forthcoming response to the consultation on the European Commission Directive on Fuel Quality; and if she will make a statement; [76075]

(2) if she will make it her policy to promote the application of a common default value to crude oil in respect of greenhouse gases when responding to the consultation on the European Commission Directive on Fuel Quality. [76076]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* This Government are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including from transport fuels, and we want the Fuel Quality Directive to be a key tool to achieve this aim.

We believe that any methodology for calculating the greenhouse gas intensity of fuels used in Europe should account for the greenhouse gas emissions associated with all crude sources and should be based on robust and objective data. It must also be flexible and reviewed often enough to adapt to changes—for example so it can be updated as new evidence becomes available or reward new processes and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

My Department has been working closely across Whitehall, including with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, to understand the economic and environmental impacts of the current EU proposal on the UK, including on refineries, and considering how the European Commission's current proposals align with our aims.

We are currently in the process of considering how the European Commission's proposals align with our aims.

Railway Signals

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of potential changes in staffing levels which might result from Network Rail's consultation to reduce the number of signal boxes. [76494]

Mrs Villiers: How the signalling infrastructure is modernised and made more efficient is an operational matter for Network Rail, working to achieve the regulatory targets set by the Office of Rail Regulation.

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* current and *(b)* planned work her Department is carrying out with train operating companies to reduce the carbon emissions of the rail sector. [76492]

Mrs Villiers: The Department includes environmental objectives in rail franchise specifications. These require train operators to develop plans to measure and reduce environmental impacts including carbon emissions.

We are working closely with rail stakeholders to improve rail's energy efficiency and thus reduce carbon emissions. For example, we are supporting the roll-out of regenerative braking and energy meters on electric trains and through research into more efficient rail diesel engines. In addition, we are assessing the case for converting the Cross Country Voyager diesel train fleet so that it is able to run on electricity when operating under overhead electric lines.

Going forward, the Department will support the efforts of train operators and other industry stakeholders to develop a rail energy strategy to reduce carbon emissions and enhance rail's overall performance. This strategy, which will form a key theme within a wider rail industry technical document due for publication in September 2012, will inform future rail investment decisions; for example, on new electrification schemes and rolling stock.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Passenger Focus report, Ticket Retailing Website Usability, June 2011, what steps her Department is taking to improve the accessibility of the lowest priced train tickets sold via web sites. [76601]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has noted this interesting piece of work.

We have already indicated that we plan to look at ticket retailing as part of our Fares Review. However, a number of Passenger Focus's recommendations are actions rail ticket retailers could take now and we would look to them to do so, for example, by helping passengers to understand that advance tickets are for one train and one train only.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 520-22, on the McNulty report and West Coast Rail, whether she plans a public consultation as part of her Department's review of rail fares policy. [63964]

Mrs Villiers: The fares review will be a first step towards a simpler, fairer and more effective system. In order to ensure that it addresses the right issues and is carried out effectively, Government are currently considering the terms of reference, scope and timetable for the review, including the appropriate form of consultation.

Railways: Job Creation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which multiplier factor her Department's statisticians apply to direct job numbers to calculate the creation of indirect jobs in the supply chain. [76498]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not issue central guidance on multiplier factors to use to estimate the creation of indirect jobs in a supply chain.

If the DfT were to use such a number it would choose one on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the proposal.

Roads: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international producers of de-icing salt on their capacity to replenish national salt stocks over the course of the winter in the event of severe weather. [76799]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* Departmental officials are in close liaison with domestic salt producers and have met them on a number of occasions since the end of last winter to discuss resilience preparations, including their capacity to meet customer demands. The Department for Transport continues to monitor salt stocks, so that we can identify risks early on and co-ordinate any further action as necessary. Due to the existence of the strategic national stockpile and increased level of salt stocks overall compared to previous years, no discussions have taken place with international producers.

It remains the responsibility of each individual local highway authority and transport operator to set its own winter service plan and to ensure it has the resources to deliver it, including ordering sufficient salt stocks. Local authorities and transport operators have their own contractual relationships with salt producers and we encourage them to work closely together over the winter period.

Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many different classes of rolling stock she plans will operate on the railways by the end of control period *(a)* four and *(b)* five. [77674]

Mrs Villiers: The majority of rolling stock is owned by the rolling stock leasing companies. They lease trains to the train operating companies so they can operate their franchised services. With certain limited exceptions (for example relating to major rolling stock programmes linked to infrastructure investment funded by the taxpayer) this Government wish to see the industry take the lead in rolling stock decisions. Therefore, the class of rolling stock to operate on different parts of the network is generally a decision for train operators to make rather than Ministers.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what classes of rolling stock are *(a)* currently operating and *(b)* scheduled to operate beyond their originally planned life-span; and when each such class is projected to be withdrawn. [77675]

Mrs Villiers: The information is as follows:

(a) The classes of rolling stock currently operating are contained within table 3.2 of the Network RUS: Passenger Rolling Stock issued in September 2011. This can be found on the following website:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=%5CRUS%20Documents%5CRoute%20Utilisation% 20Strategies%5CNetwork%5CWorking%20Group%203%20-%20Passenger %20Rolling%20Stock%20 and%20Depots

(b) Life extension and withdrawal of rolling stock will depend on a number of factors and will form part of the commercial negotiations between the owners of the rolling stock and the bidders for future franchises.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether recent changes in the value of the euro have affected the cost to the Government of the *(a)* Thameslink rolling stock and *(b)* Intercity Express programme; and whether the (i) Government and (ii) preferred bidder bears the risk on currency fluctuations in respect of each programme. [75228]

Mrs Villiers: Elements of each of the named rolling stock procurements are priced in foreign currencies. Up to the point of financial close the risk on currency fluctuations affecting the cost of the transactions lies with the Department.

The Department performs sensitivity analysis of exchange rate movements and their repercussions on contract awards on an ongoing basis. This is to understand the likely risk of cost changes to the Government.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which rail franchises she proposes that carriages to be procured under the Intercity Express programme will be deployed. [77676]

Mrs Villiers: Trains to be procured under the Intercity Express programme will initially be deployed on the Greater Western and Intercity East Coast franchises.

Shipping: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change is in the number of investigators at the Marine Accident Investigation Branch over the period of the current spending review. [76549][1]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Under plans to reduce its costs in line with the outcome of the October 2010 spending review, the number of MAIB investigators will be reduced from 21 to 16.

SS Gairsoppa: Salvage

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many companies bid for the contract to salvage precious metal from the SS Gairsoppa; [73170]

(2) how her Department intends to monitor the recovery of silver from the SS Gairsoppa. [73171]

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 November 2011, Vol. 534, c. 5MC.]*

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport (DfT) ran a competitive tender for the salvage of the SS Gairsoppa in 2009. Three salvage companies had shown an interest in making recoveries and were subsequently invited to tender. Following an assessment of the bids, Odyssey Marine Exploration was awarded the salvage contract as it offered the best rate of return to HMG.

DfT's standard salvage agreement/contract requires the contractor to allow the Department's representatives on board during a salvage operation, to monitor any recoveries and to nominate which port the salvage vessel will use to discharge the recovered items, which may be placed in a secure site and subject to further inspection by officials.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice she *(a)* requested and *(b)* received from officials on mitigating UK job losses in the event that the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract was not awarded to Bombardier Transportation between May 2010 and June 2010. [65473]

Mrs Villiers: Following the decision to establish Siemens plc and XL Trains as preferred bidder the previous Secretary of State for Transport received general handling advice, including an assessment of the possible impacts on employment associated with this decision.

The previous Secretary of State was made aware that under the previous Government's procurement approach there was no requirement for a bid to create UK jobs in the evaluation criteria contained within the ITT at the outset. This position was known to all bidders and was clear from the ITT which was published at the time.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which dates she has met with representatives of Bombardier since her appointment; and whether *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department plan to meet Bombardier to discuss the future of the company in the UK. [65896]

Mrs Villiers: All ministerial diary commitments are published on the Department for Transport's website. Ministers from the Department for Transport have no current appointments with Bombardier in our diaries to discuss this matter, though the Secretary of State for Transport has recently spoken to the president of Bombardier. I look forward to future engagement and discussion with Bombardier on various issues.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Atos Healthcare on the suitability of its IT system for the work capability assessment. [77570]

Chris Grayling: The Logic integrated Medical Assessment (LiMA) is a software tool used by Atos Healthcare which supports health care professionals in carrying out assessments and providing reports to the Department. Health care practitioners remain in total control of the process and are fully responsible for the final report including justifying their advice in free text.

We have asked Professor Harrington to look at the LiMA system in detail. He will publish his findings, including any recommendations to improve the system, as part of his second independent review. This is due to be published before the end of the year.

Crime: Disability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to tackle disability hate crimes. [74581]

Maria Miller: Hate crime, including that targeting a person's perceived disability, is an issue the Government take very seriously. We are already in the process of developing a new action plan to tackle all forms of hate crime. It will take account of the recommendations in the newly published Equality and Human Rights Commission's report 'Hidden in Plain Sight'.

We are working closely with Ministry of Justice, Home Office, other Government Departments, disabled people and other stakeholders. Key to tackling disability hate crime is raising awareness of the problem. We are working with Radar to develop guidance.

ACPO's True Vision hate crime website was launched earlier this year, to provide an alternative to reporting directly to the police. Other work under way includes considering ways to encourage greater third party reporting, and promoting good practice in responding to hate crime at the local level.

For the first time police forces have been formally collecting data on hate crime against disabled people since April 2011. ACPO recorded hate crime figures, from regional forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the calendar year 2010, show an increase in reported hate crime from 1,294 in 2009 to 1,569 in 2010.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which his Department is responsible. [77007]

Maria Miller: The Department uses as a basis the current cross Government definition

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional, between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

Definitions used by DWP are targeted to deliver policy objectives which ensure inclusion for victims. For example, the proposed new 13 week easement for certain victims of domestic violence from the requirements to be available and to be actively seeking work, will be based on the cross-Government definition. There are some differences—for example, it will specify family members to which the definition extends. It will not specify that the claimant must have been in an intimate relationship with their partner or former partner, but will include abuse by other members of the victim's and abuser's families.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had within his Department about stopping the assessment rate of employment and support allowance for claimants appealing against a decision. [77685]

Chris Grayling: We constantly review the benefit system to ensure that it is as efficient as possible. We are in the process of considering appeals—as a consequence of the provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill, including universal credit and the requirement to undertake a reconsideration before appealing. However, no decisions have yet been made.

Incapacity Benefit: Correspondence

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters were sent by his Department to incapacity benefit claimants informing them that their reassessment was about to commence in each week from the beginning of February 2011 to date. [77683]

Chris Grayling: We have no publicly available data on the number of letters to incapacity benefit claimants informing them that their reassessment was about to commence in each week from the beginning of February 2011 to date.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current average wait time is between an incapacity benefit claimant receiving a letter informing them of their impending assessment and that claimant attending a work capability assessment. [77684]

Chris Grayling: The average waiting time between an incapacity benefit customer receiving a letter informing them of their impending assessment and that claimant attending a work capability assessment is not collected by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Industrial Health and Safety: Roads

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions the Health and Safety Executive has taken a highways authority to court on the grounds that its work departed from national standards and was construed as the local authority failing in its mandatory duty of care to road users in each of the last five years. [77301]

Chris Grayling: Between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2011, no prosecutions have been taken by HSE against a highways authority in respect of any legal duty owed to road users imposed by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 or any other relevant statutory provision within its field of responsibility.

Job Creation

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in the creative industries were created and supported through the Future Jobs Fund in each local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [77565]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to uprate *(a)* pensions and *(b)* other benefits in line with September's consumer prices index. [77306]

Steve Webb: Next year's proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of uprating for 2012-13 *(a)* pensions and *(b)* all other benefits in line with (i) September's consumer prices index and (ii) the OBR's March forecast for the consumer prices index. [77307]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided in the following tables for pensions and all other benefits paid by the Department for Work and Pensions.

These costs are indicative only. Actual costs will be dependent on increases in benefit rates in April 2012. Proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

(i) Cost of uprating for 2012-13 under September 2011 outturn CPI, 2011l12 prices

	£ billion
Pension benefits	4.6
All other benefits	2.1

Source:
DWP Forecasting Model.

(ii) Cost of uprating for 2012-13, under March 2011 forecast CPI, 2011-12 prices

	£ billion
Pension benefits	3.7
All other benefits	1.8

Notes:
1. The costing in part (i) is based on the September 2011 outturn CPI and May to July 2011 outturn average earnings for pension credit.
2. The costing in part (ii) is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's 2011 quarter 3 CPI forecast, and 2011 quarter 2 average earnings forecast for pension credit, as published in the Budget Report March 2011.
3. 'Pension benefits' include basic state pension uprated with the triple lock policy, additional pension and graduated retirement pension uprated by CPI and pension credit uprated by average earnings.
4. 'All other benefits' refers to working age benefits including: income support, jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit maternity allowances and statutory sick pay, and also housing benefits and disability benefits. All are uprated by CPI.

Source:
DWP Forecasting Model.

Retirement: Females

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from which budget the funds required to cover the £1 billion reduction in savings consequent upon the change in women's retirement age will be found. [77303]

Steve Webb: The estimated £1.1 billion in lost savings, as a result of the Government's change to the proposed state pension age timetable, will take place during 2019-20 and 2020-21. The Government have set out their spending plans up to 2014-15 in the 2010 spending review. Decisions on spending priorities beyond that will be taken in future spending reviews.

Social Security Benefits: Children

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from which budget he proposes that the £300 million additional funding for child care support which he announced on 7 October 2011 will come. [77686]

Maria Miller: The £300 million additional funding for child care support has been allocated from the existing £2 billion investment for universal credit, allocated in the spending review.

Speech Therapy

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the role of speech and language therapy in reducing unemployment and getting people back to work; [73081]

(2) what steps he is taking to tackle barriers to employment for people with speech, language and communication difficulties. [73082]

Chris Grayling: The Government provide the following support for those with speech, language and communications difficulties:

directly through Jobcentre Plus the Government offer a personalised, flexible service that recognises individuals may have conditions or circumstances requiring different levels of support; disability employment advisers can also offer support for those in need of more specialist help.

Work programme providers are free to decide what support to offer but the Department expects them to address these areas if they are a barrier to employment.

Specialist disability programmes such as Work Choice, Access to Work, and Residential Training provide support to those with the most complex barriers to work.

No specific assessment of the role of speech and language therapy in reducing unemployment has been undertaken. When an individual is participating in either the Work programme or Work Choice, appropriate support based on individual needs will be provided by prime contractors.

An independent review of DWP employment support for disabled people specifically looked at Remploy, residential training colleges and the Access to Work programme. The Government's initial response and a separate public consultation was launched on 11 July 2011 The closing date for responses was 17 October 2011. The central theme of the review was welcomed by Government, that resources for supporting disabled people into employment should be focused on disabled people themselves rather than on specific institutions. However, no decisions will be made on the future of disability employment support until all responses to the consultation have been considered.

Following its launch in October 2010, a comprehensive evaluation of Work Choice is being carried out, partly through in-house qualitative research with key stakeholders and partly through case studies carried out by an external research organisation—'Inclusion'.

A full independent evaluation of the Work programme has been commissioned for 2013. It will be led by the Institute for Employment Studies in Brighton.

Unemployment Benefits: Carers

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered carers receive unemployment benefits or income support. [77560]

Maria Miller: The figures for those registered carers who receive unemployment benefits or income support are provided as follows:

	Number
Income support	263,400
Jobseeker's allowance (income-based)	5,900

Notes:
1. JSA (IB) figure has been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. IS figure is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. IS figure excludes residual MIG claimants.

Sources:
1. Income support: DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
2. Jobseeker's allowance (IB): Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Unemployment: Young People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the development of sector-based work academies to reduce youth unemployment. [77703]

Chris Grayling: The Scottish Government have agreed in principle to roll out a sector-based work academy model in Scotland. The Department for Work and Pensions is now in discussion with Scottish Government officials on the detail of how this could be delivered and they have agreed to test two sector-based work academies in Scotland; one in East Ayrshire covering customer service and another in Edinburgh covering hospitality.

Universal Credit: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with disability charities on the proposed introduction of universal credit. [65692]

Maria Miller: My Department values the contribution that disability charities make to welfare reform. I meet regularly to discuss universal credit reforms with disability charities, and records of my meetings with external stakeholders are routinely published at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

In addition, my officials are in regular discussion with disability organisations concerning the disability aspects of universal credit.

Work Capability Assessment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 358W, on work capability assessment: illnesses, when he expects the next review of the ESA50 questionnaire to take place; and if he will consider refining the ESA50 questionnaire to include a specific question about terminal illness to account for the circumstances where an individual with a terminal illness could receive an ESA50 questionnaire as part of that review. [77701]

Chris Grayling: We keep the ESA50 questionnaire under continuous review to ensure it captures the most relevant information to support decision makers in making accurate decisions. Following recommendations by Professor Harrington we have improved the ESA50 questionnaire, adding a 'personal justification' section (on page 3) that allows an individual to explain in their own words what their condition is and how it affects them if they wish.

The vast majority of individuals with a terminal illness as defined by the legislation will be fast tracked to the support group and will not be sent an ESA50 questionnaire. On the rare occasions where an individual with a terminal illness is not fast tracked into the support group and they are sent an ESA50 questionnaire, we would expect the claimant to use the 'personal justification' section to draw attention to the fact that they have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Tier 1 and Tier 2 subcontracts from the voluntary and community sectors *(a)* were named on bids for the Work programme at the initial round of bidding and *(b)* are currently contracted to provide services. [77687]

Chris Grayling: At the initial round of bidding DWP received 177 bids for the Work programme competition. 1,570 subcontractors were included in these bids from the voluntary and community sector. 40 of these bids were successful and there were 1,404 supply chain opportunities. DWP does not hold an exact comparison between initial bids and the current position. A recent stock take of the position regarding Tier 1 and Tier 2 Work programme supply chains found comparatively few changes with the voluntary sector maintaining the highest share at around 46%.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has undertaken on *(a)* the extent of UK banks' exposure to counterparty risk to European banks and *(b)* UK banks' ability to withstand mark-to-market volatility in the markets. [76087]

Mr Hoban: Consolidated data on external claims of UK-owned monetary financial institutions, and of their branches and subsidiaries abroad, is available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Bankstats/2011/Sep/TabC4.2.xls

This includes UK banking groups' direct exposures to the private sectors in European countries, as well as derivatives exposures, as of end June 2011.

Individual bank exposures have also been published as part of European Banking Authority (EBA) and Financial Services Authority (FSA) exercises. The four UK banks that participated in the July EBA stress test exercise, Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland, published details of their exposures to the EEA 30 countries (plus the US, Japan and the rest of the world by region). In addition, Co-operative Bank, Nationwide Building Society and Standard Chartered have also published details of their exposures to EEA sovereigns and financial institutions. These disclosures can be seen on the EBA website at:

http://stress-test.eba.europa.eu/

On 16 June 2011, the interim Financial Policy Committee (iFPC) recommended that the FSA compile data on the current sovereign and banking exposures of UK banks not subject to the European Banking Authority (EBA) stress tests to European economic area (EEA) countries. These disclosures can be seen at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Other_publications/Miscellaneous/2011/eea_exposure.shtml

Although the UK financial sector is not immune to the events in the eurozone, the Financial Services Authority confirms that UK banks are well capitalised against mark to market volatility on trading books.

Beer: Exports

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much beer was exported to bonded warehouses in Europe in each of the last three years. [77238]

Miss Chloe Smith: The total volume of beer exported from the UK to bonded warehouses in other EU countries was approximately 465 million litres in each of the last two years, information is unavailable for other years.

Crown Lands and Estates: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income has been received in respect of the marine land owned by the Crown Estate around Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how much such income has been allocated to the Northern Ireland Executive. [77572]

Miss Chloe Smith: The gross income from the Crown Estate's marine estate in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	0.6
2007-08	0.7
2008-09	0.8
2009-10	0.8
2010-11	0.9

Total net income surplus from the Crown Estate is passed directly to the Exchequer for the benefit of all UK citizens. In 2010-11 this amounted to £231 million.

Debts: Business

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with banks on underwriting or guaranteeing debts of businesses. [76941]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Debts: EU Countries

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of exposure of the UK banking system to *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Spanish, *(c)* Portuguese and *(d)* Irish sovereign debt. [77437]

Mr Hoban: Data on external claims of UK-owned monetary financial institutions, and of their branches and subsidiaries abroad, are available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Bankstats/2011/Sep/TabC4.2.xls

These data include UK banking groups' direct exposures to the entire public sectors in Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Italy and France, as of end June 2011.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75632]

Miss Chloe Smith: Since May 2010, the Treasury has reduced its spending on advertising job vacancies externally to £38,702.

An external recruitment freeze was put in place in May 2010 across the civil service and only business critical posts that could not be filled from within the civil service have been advertised externally.

All requests to advertise externally have been referred for ministerial approval, and only those with this approval have been advertised.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74949]

Miss Chloe Smith: Details of HM Treasury's senior officials' business expenses are published on our website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/senior_officials_expenses.htm

This provides details of expense claims from April 2008 to September 2010. More recent data will be available in due course.

Equality Impact

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish an equality impact assessment with the Autumn Statement. [77308]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Autumn Statement is the response of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Economic and Fiscal Outlook which will be published by the Office for Budget Responsibility on 29 November.

In line with its statutory obligations, the Government pays due regard to the impact of policy measures on groups with protected characteristics as part of the policy development process.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement; [75170]

(2) how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement; [75171]

(3) how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75173]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury does not hold information on the number of contracts awarded directly to either third sector organisations or to small, medium-sized or large businesses prior to January 2011. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

HM Treasury does record data relating to whether a supplier is classified as a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), but does not distinguish between small or medium-sized organisations. HM Treasury does not record whether contracts are awarded to suppliers classified as third sector organisations.

Since January 2011 it has been a mandatory requirement for Departments to advertise all new tenders and contracts over the value of £10,000 (excluding VAT) on Contracts Finder in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

The number of HM Treasury contracts advertised and awarded each month on Contracts Finder since January 2011 to end September 2011 are shown in the following table. In some cases, the value of the contract will be determined by usage.

Month (2011)	*Opportunities/tenders published*	*Contracts awarded*	*Value of contracts awarded (exc. VAT) (£ million)*	*Number of contracts awarded to SMEs*
January	2	0	0	0
February	3	4	1.4	0
March	1	1	0.	0
April	2	2	0.845	0
May	2	1	0	0
June	1	0	0	0
July	0	2	0.129	0
August	2	4	0.385	0
September	0	2	9.3	0
Total	13	16	12.096	0

Energy: Prices

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures his Department is taking to assist families adversely affected by trends in energy prices. [74177]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are taking a range of steps to assist households affected by rising energy prices, including fiscal measures.

The Energy Consumer Summit held on 17 October 2011 agreed a range of steps that Government, energy suppliers and the regulator Ofgem will take to help consumers by clarifying bills, facilitating switching supplier and increasing uptake of insulation to help consumers save money on their gas and electricity bills. The Government welcome Ofgem's proposals to simplify energy tariffs and standardise price information.

The new Warm Home Discount will this year require energy suppliers to provide £250 million of rebates and other assistance to around 2 million households vulnerable to fuel poverty, including automatic discounts of £120 off energy bills this winter to about 600,000 of the poorest pensioners. Over 9 million pensioner households will receive the winter fuel payment of £200 (£300 for households with someone over 80). The cold weather payment has been permanently increased from £8.50 to £25. In addition, domestic energy remains subject to the reduced 5% VAT rate.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much on average has been paid to each Equitable Life policy holder through the compensation scheme; what the highest award paid was; and how many payments have been made by the scheme since its inception. [77311]

Mr Hoban: The scheme began making payments as planned on the 30 June this year and close to 1,000 payments to individual policyholders have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

The Government set out at the spending review in October last year that £500 million was available to make payments to policyholders in 2011-12, £300 million in 2012-13.and £200 million in 2013-14. We are making good progress towards delivering these payments to policyholders.

The average payment to date is £676 and the highest payment made so far is £17,416.18.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what EU grants were available but not taken up by the Government since May 2010. [77479]

Mr Hoban: This information is not held centrally. Applications for EU grants are a matter for the individual Government Department concerned.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in central Government spending on the allocation of EU funds to English regions. [77480]

Mr Hoban: The UK allocation of EU Structural Funds for the period 2007-13 was agreed in 2005 and as such is not affected by reductions in central Government expenditure.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of duty stamps on *(a)* beer and *(b)* spirits to prevent duty fraud. [77198]

Miss Chloe Smith: HMRC publishes estimates of losses from duty fraud involving spirits and beer annually. The most recent estimate of the spirits tax gap was published in "Measuring Tax Gaps-2011" in September 2011.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

This estimate indicates that since the introduction of duty stamps in 2006 the spirits illicit market has fallen from 6% (2005-06) to 3% (2009-10).

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government will explore potential legislative measures to tackle existing and emerging threats to alcohol duty receipts at Budget 2011. HMRC are currently consulting informally with the alcohol industry on potential anti-fraud measures, including exploring the potential to introduce a fiscal marking scheme for beer.

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the types of alcohol which are particularly susceptible to duty fraud. [77405]

Miss Chloe Smith: HMRC published estimates of losses from duty fraud involving spirits and beer in "Measuring Tax Gaps-2011" in September 2011.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Estimates of duty losses involving other types of alcoholic beverages are not available.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to employ a member of his Department's senior management team to work with officials in other Government Departments for the purpose of ensuring central Government procurement better supports domestic industry, UK skills, British manufacturing and domestic supply chains. [75284]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring that growth is supported in all areas of UK Government policy.

For procurement we are making sure that the procurement process is fast, swift and sure. This will help to make sure that excellent British firms win business.

My officials are working with colleagues in BIS and HMT to see what more can be done.

Loans: Business

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with banks on potential incentives to increase lending to businesses. [76925]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Bank of England on potential incentives to increase bank lending to businesses. [76940]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury is engaging with the Bank of England on credit easing as part of routine Government business. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of administering the systems of *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer national insurance contributions in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [76807]

Mr Gauke: The HM Revenue and Customs annual report and accounts show that the total cost charged by HMRC to the National Insurance Fund to administer national insurance contributions in 2010-11 was £354 million. A breakdown of costs is not available.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions on making the national insurance holiday scheme for small businesses opt-out rather than opt-in. [77691]

Mr Gauke: To provide the support needed to new businesses as soon as possible, the current scheme was designed to be implemented quickly, with limited burden on businesses, software developers and HMRC and within the constraints of state aid and eligibility rules. This precluded the possibility that the scheme could be designed on an opt-out basis.

Revenue and Customs: Pensions

Margot James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of allowing all current employees of HM Revenue and Customs to opt-in to the pension terms and conditions agreed following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise in 2005. [76973]

Mr Gauke: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme is a statutory occupational scheme, connected to employment in the civil service. It is a voluntary scheme that members can join at any time during their employment within the civil service.

At the point when the former Inland Revenue merged with former Customs and Excise to become HM Revenue and Customs, individuals continued in the same pension scheme as they were in before the merger. There were no additional financial costs relating to pensions as a result of the merger.

Margot James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual gross pension allowance is for an employee of HM Revenue and Customs who *(a)* opted into and *(b)* opted out of the pension terms and conditions agreed following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise in 2005. [76974]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information relating to the average value of pensions, so we are unable to provide this information.

At the point when former Inland Revenue merged with former Customs and Excise to become HM Revenue and Customs in 2005, there were no changes to the pension scheme. Individuals continued in the same pension scheme, on the same terms as before the merger.

Social Security Benefits: Foreign Nationals

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount of *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* working tax credit paid to non-UK citizens was in each year from 2004-05 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [76950]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available. Nationality is not a condition of entitlement to child benefit or the child and working tax credits.

However, child benefit and tax credits are intended to provide support to families with children in the UK and to those in low-paid work here. As a result, eligibility for child benefit and tax credits depends on the claimants being present and ordinarily resident in the UK. In addition, child benefit and child tax credit claimants must also have a right to reside in the UK. Non-EEA nationals in the UK who are subject to immigration control are generally not entitled to child benefit or tax credits.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential revenue yield from taxation of the winter fuel payment at 40 per cent. for higher rate taxpayers; and if he will make a statement. [76348]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides estimates of how much would be paid in income tax on winter fuel payments at 40% for higher rate taxpayers if the payments were not exempt from taxation, assuming the 2011-12 payment rate of £200 for people aged 60 to 79 and £300 for people aged 80 or over. The figures are expressed in cash terms and rounded to the nearest £10 million.

Estimated reversion to Exchequer if winter fuel payments for higher rate taxpayers were subject to income tax,

	£ million (cash terms)
2011-12	30
2012-13	40
2013-14	40
2014-15	40
2015-16	40

The estimates are based on Department for Work and Pensions expenditure forecasts combined with information on the tax paid by older people from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Survey of Personal Incomes.

EDUCATION

Academies

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools with attached nurseries have converted to academy status since May 2010; and how many such schools have set up an independent company to run their nursery following conversion to academy status. [74525]

Mr Gibb: This information is not collected by the Department.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have converted to academy status in *(a)* Kettering constituency, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [74552]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 October 2011, three schools in the Kettering constituency have converted to academy status, 11 have converted in Northamptonshire and 1,031 schools have converted in England.

Full details of schools that have converted to academy status can be found on the Department for Education Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b0069811/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Dartford constituency *(a)* had applied and *(b)* were in the process of applying for academy status on the latest date for which figures are available. [74757]

Mr Gibb: As of 13 October 2011, eight schools in the Dartford constituency have applied to convert to academy status. Three of those schools have already converted and a further five are in the process of converting.

Two schools are in the process of becoming sponsored academies.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010-11 can be found on the Department for Education academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many special schools have become academies under the Academies Act 2010. [76331]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* As of 1 October 2011, 14 special schools in England have converted to academy status.

Full details of schools that have converted to academy status, including special schools, can be found on the Department for Education academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/b0069811/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

Academies: Primary Education

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria he plans to use in determining whether to convert primary schools to academy status; what account he takes of the special needs of pupils when assessing the performance of primary schools; and if he will list those primary schools he intends to designate with academy status. [75281]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* Primary schools are considered for conversion to academy status following an application being submitted to the Department by the school. The following criteria are taken into account in determining whether to approve an application to convert to an academy:

> The school's last three years exam results and the general performance trend.
>
> Comparisons, both locally and nationally, with exam performance in similar schools i.e. the percentage of pupils making expected progress in English and Maths with KS2 for primary schools, and KS2-4 in secondary schools. We will be looking at whether the results are above, or moving rapidly towards, the national averages in attainment and progression.
>
> The last Ofsted inspections, taking particular notice of the school's capacity to improve; its outcomes; and effectiveness of the leadership team.
>
> Any other evidence of a school's performance which a school considers to be significant.

Consideration is also taken of the school's financial position, the school's plans to support improvement in weaker schools, and whether the necessary legal requirements have been met. Less strongly performing schools may still be considered for conversion to academy status provided they convert in an appropriate chain arrangement with a high performing school or sponsor.

In determining the school's performance my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education may also consider contextual factors such as the pupils on the school roll with special educational needs and Ofsted judgments over the quality of education for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their progress.

A list is available on the Department's website of all primary schools that have applied to convert to academy status, including a list of those applications that have been approved. The website also lists those primary schools that have become sponsored academies.

> www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b0069811/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75067]

Sarah Teather: As far as I am aware, the Department has not received any formal representations concerning the Big Society Bank since June 2011. However, we welcome the creation of Big Society Capital (formerly known as the Big Society Bank) which will provide new investment for voluntary organisations and support them to deliver vital services for children, young people and families.

Responsibility for the new Work programme falls to the Department for Work and Pensions and as far as I am aware, no formal representations about this programme have been made to the Department for Education. However, Government Departments are working closely together to widen opportunities available to young people aged 16 to 24 to maximise their participation in education, employment and training. We are committed to supporting all 16- and 17-year-olds to participate in education or training, and to raising the participation age to 18 by 2015.

I can confirm that the Department has received a number of written responses since June 2011 relating to volunteering as part of a wide-ranging consultation on a new cross-Government statement on youth policy. These are being reviewed to inform the final statement which will be published, together with a summary of responses, later this year.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of residents in Birmingham, Ladywood who are likely to make use of the Discretionary Learner Fund; and how many residents claimed the education maintenance allowance. [76561]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance and the 16-19 bursary fund for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Free School Meals

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children receive free school meals in each *(a)* free school and *(b)* local authority area where a free school has been established. [75090]

Mr Gibb: There are 24 free schools, in 21 local authorities, which opened since September 2011. The Department does not currently hold free school meal information for pupils in these; this is being collected as part of the autumn term school census. A table will be placed in the House Library when available; this is likely to be early in the new year.

The available information on the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in local authorities where a free school has been established is shown in the following tables.

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, special schools and pupil referral units[1, 2, 3, 4]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6, 7], local authorities with a free school, January 2011, England

			Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*		
				Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means			*Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means*	
LA code	*LA number*		*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*	*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*
		England	3,873,175	743,255	19.2	2,837,825	450,275	15.9

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, special schools and pupil referral units[1, 2, 3, 4]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6, 7], local authorities with a free school, January 2011, England

			Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*		
				Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means			*Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means*	
LA code	*LA number*		*Number on roll[3, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*	*Number on roll[3, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*
E09000003	302	Barnet	25,390	5,489	21.6	17,154	3,214	18.7
E08000025	330	Birmingham	99,050	34,202	34.5	61,491	20,923	34.0
E08000032	380	Bradford	48,392	11,166	23.1	28,741	6,697	23.3
E06000023	801	Bristol, City of	28,855	7,362	25.5	15,445	3,601	23.3
E09000007	202	Camden	11,504	4,688	40.8	7,268	2,718	37.4
E06000049	895	Cheshire East	26,054	3,070	11.8	18,779	1,755	9.3
E09000010	308	Enfield	27,225	8,309	30.5	18,534	4,845	26.1
E09000013	205	Hammersmith and Fulham	10,131	4,079	40.3	5,657	1,922	34.0
E09000014	309	Haringey	20,396	6,473	31.7	10,882	4,084	37.5
E10000017	888	Lancashire	87,164	14,773	16.9	63,955	8,643	13.5
E06000016	856	Leicester	25,711	6,592	25.6	17,060	4,066	23.8
E06000032	821	Luton	19,113	4,485	23.5	12,185	2,625	21.5
E10000020	926	Norfolk	55,932	8,946	16.0	43,397	5,131	11.8
E06000038	870	Reading	10,096	2,173	21.5	5,260	954	18.1
E09000026	317	Redbridge	24,140	4,847	20.1	16,635	3,193	19.2
E06000039	871	Slough	12,125	2,277	18.8	8,209	1,228	15.0
E10000029	935	Suffolk	41,952	5,612	13.4	44,207	4,423	10.0
E09000030	211	Tower Hamlets	23,243	11,052	47.5	12,768	7,258	56.8
E10000031	937	Warwickshire	38,781	4,899	12.6	29,299	2,615	8.9
E10000032	938	West Sussex	56,397	4,935	8.8	40,111	2,864	7.1
E09000033	213	Westminster	11,076	4,279	38.6	7,500	3,179	42.4

				Special schools[4]			*Pupil referral units*	
				Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means			*Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means*	
LA code	*LA number*		*Number on roll[3, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*	*Number on roll[3, 6]*	*Number[5, 6]*	*Percentage*
		England	79,030	28,830	36.5	13,725	4,745	34.6
E09000003	302	Barnet	275	114	41.5	72	25	34.7
E08000025	330	Birmingham	2,854	1,388	48.6	324	185	57.1
E08000032	380	Bradford	541	185	34.2	289	149	51.6
E06000023	801	Bristol, City of	668	303	45.4	102	32	31.4
E09000007	202	Camden	262	156	59.5	44	26	59.1
E06000049	895	Cheshire East	230	69	30.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
E09000010	308	Enfield	389	167	42.9	84	[8]—	[8]—
E09000013	205	Hammersmith and Fulham	335	185	55.2	127	109	85.8
E09000014	309	Haringey	410	187	45.6	106	25	23.6
E10000017	888	Lancashire	1,960	793	40.5	313	131	41.9
E06000016	856	Leicester	627	274	43.7	18	9	50.0
E06000032	821	Luton	267	82	30.7	27	8	29.6
E10000020	926	Norfolk	943	316	33.5	254	77	30.3
E06000038	870	Reading	163	92	56.4	82	26	31.7
E09000026	317	Redbridge	409	146	35.7	77	35	45.5
E06000039	871	Slough	246	110	44.7	70	15	21.4
E10000029	935	Suffolk	760	240	31.6	138	41	29.7
E09000030	211	Tower Hamlets	295	219	74.2	142	132	93.0
E10000031	937	Warwickshire	867	239	27.6	117	33	28.2
E10000032	938	West Sussex	1,329	295	22.2	117	25	21.4
E09000033	213	Westminster	112	50	44.6	58	26	44.8

				Total[7]	
				Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school means	
LA code	*LA number*		*Number on roll*[5, 6]	*Number*[5, 6]	*Percentage*
		England	6,803,790	1,227,110	18.0
E09000003	302	Barnet	42,890	8,840	20.6
E08000025	330	Birmingham	163,720	56,700	34.6
E08000032	380	Bradford	77,965	18,195	23.3
E06000023	801	Bristol, City of	45,070	11,300	25.1
E09000007	202	Camden	19,080	7,590	39.8
E06000049	895	Cheshire East	45,065	4,895	10.9
E09000010	308	Enfield	46,230	13,320	28.8
E09000013	205	Hammersmith and Fulham	16,250	6,295	38.7
E09000014	309	Haringey	31,795	10,770	33.9
E10000017	888	Lancashire	153,390	24,340	15.9
E06000016	856	Leicester	43,415	10,940	25.2
E06000032	821	Luton	31,590	7,200	22.8
E10000020	926	Norfolk	100,525	14,470	14.4
E06000038	870	Reading	15,600	3,245	20.8
E09000026	317	Redbridge	41,260	8,220	19.9
E06000039	871	Slough	20,650	3,630	17.6
E10000029	935	Suffolk	87,055	10,315	11.8
E09000030	211	Tower Hamlets	36,450	18,660	51.2
E10000031	937	Warwickshire	69,065	7,785	11.3
E10000032	938	West Sussex	97,955	8,120	8.3
E09000033	213	Westminster	18,745	7,535	40.2

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.

[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[5] Includes pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. Includes boarders. In pupil referral units also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[6] Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[7] Includes maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary, special schools and pupil referral units. Excludes pupils in alternative provision, other than pupil referral units.

[8] One or two pupils or a percentage based on one or two pupils.

Note:

Total numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

School census.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved five GCSEs at A* to C in (i) academies and (ii) maintained schools in 2010. [76609]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The information requested can be found in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalent*[1] *by free school meal (FSM) eligibility and school type*[2]*, 2009/10*

		Total number of pupils	*Number of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent*
Academies	Eligible for FSM	7,723	5,253	68.0
	All other pupils[3]	24,008	18,990	79.1
	All	31,731	24,243	76.4
All other maintained schools	Eligible for FSM	69,598	40,038	57.5
	All other pupils[3]	476,730	375,764	78.8
	All	546,328	415,802	76.1
All maintained schools[2]	Eligible for FSM	77,321	45,291	58.6
	All other pupils[3]	500,738	394,754	78.8

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalent[1] by free school meal (FSM) eligibility and school type[2], 2009/10*

		Total number of pupils	Number of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent
	All	578,059	440,045	76.1

[1] In 2010 iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.
[2] Includes all maintained schools, including CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes pupils not eligible for FSM and for whom FSM eligibility could not be determined.
Source:
National Pupil Database: Final data

Free Schools: Finance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of the education budget is allocated to free schools in 2011-12. [75217]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The budget allocation for free schools for 2011-12 has yet to be finalised and is dependent on developing and finalising the costs for the recently announced 55 new free schools and 13 new university technical colleges scheduled to open from September 2012, as well as finalising the costs of the alternative provision free schools, special free schools and studio schools that will be approved later this year.

Grammar Schools

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were admitted to grammar schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [76081]

Mr Gibb: The available information is shown in the following table.

Number of pupils aged 11 in grammar schools, 2007-11[1, 2]

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dartford parliamentary constituency	520	570	590	560	570
Kent local authority	4,400	4,500	4,700	4,600	4,600
England	21,800	21,800	22,000	22,000	21,900

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 1,000, and to the nearest 100 if over 1,000.
[2] Includes maintained mainstream schools only.
Source:
School census.

Schools: Admissions

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost per pupil of providing places in *(a)* free schools, *(b)* academies and *(c)* local authority run schools in (i) London and (ii) England in the academic year 2011-12. [74810]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* Local authority maintained schools are funded on a financial year basis and their budgets are set locally on a formula determined by local authorities in consultation with schools forums. For 2011-12 financial year basis, the average budget share per pupil in (i) London is £5,505 and (ii) for England is £4,667. These figures are taken from local authority section 251 Budget Statements for 2011-12 and include local authority maintained schools at the time the statements were completed by local authorities.

Academies are funded on an academic year basis by the Young People's Learning Agency according to the same local funding formula as maintained schools. This ensures funding equivalence with maintained schools in the local authority. Free schools are funded using a model designed to provide per pupil funding equivalent to maintained schools in the same local authority area. For the 2011/12 academic year, the average funding per pupil for academies in (i) London is £6,320 and (ii) for England is £5,483. The funding per pupil for free schools in (i) London is £6,507 and (ii) England is £5,092.

The inclusion of LACSEG and post-16 funding means that per pupil figures for academies and free schools are not directly comparable with the budget share per pupil figures for local maintained schools above. Academies and free schools both receive the Local Authority Central Services Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), to reflect the additional responsibilities they undertake that were previously the responsibility of their local authority. Funding for academies and free schools also includes funding for post-16 pupils, where relevant.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of places at maintained secondary schools in each local authority area are at *(a)* non-denominational schools, *(b)* Church of England schools, *(c)* Catholic schools, *(d)* other Christian denomination schools, *(e)* Jewish schools, *(f)* Muslim schools and *(g)* other denominational or faith schools. [75449]

Mr Gibb: Information showing the number and percentage of pupils in state-funded secondary schools by religious character of their school has been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many children in Bassetlaw will be taught in upstairs classrooms after the allocation of priority schools funding; and what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* health and safety and *(b)* children with disabilities of the use of upstairs classrooms; [76623]

(2) how many schools in Bassetlaw will not receive funding to replace coal-fired boilers under priority schools funding. [76624]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* Applications to the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) are currently being assessed and we expect to announce those projects that will go forward later in the year. The programme aims to address school buildings in the very worst condition. It is not a priority to provide single storey buildings or to replace coal-fired boilers through the programme.

There are no health and safety implications of building a school of more than one storey that cannot be overcome easily; and there is no reason why children with disabilities should be adversely affected by the provision of upstairs classrooms, where these are provided as part of PSBP. Any new building work has to comply with the building regulations which deal with the health, safety and welfare of people in and around buildings. Any new building work has to comply with part M of the Building Regulations (Access to and use of buildings). Schools also have to comply with the Equalities Act 2010, which sets out that people cannot be discriminated against, including because of their disability.

Schools: Inspections

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of Ofsted's policy on the timing and cycle of inspection visits; and if he will make a statement. [75251]

Mr Gibb: The Department is committed to working with Ofsted to reform inspection across Ofsted's remit. Our aim is to make inspection arrangements more proportionate and targeted at those in most need of improvement. In relation to schools for example, we intend that outstanding institutions should be subject to full inspection only where there is a decline in performance, and that Ofsted should target visits at schools that are inadequate or satisfactory.

Teach First Programme

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Teach First programme will operate in university technical colleges. [76441]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Teach First is an independent charity with a mission to address educational disadvantage by transforming exceptional graduates into effective, inspirational teachers and leaders in all fields. Teach First places participants in schools in areas with the greatest deprivation, or with low attainment at GCSE. Teach First would consider partnering with a university technical college that meets these criteria. All placements must enable participants to gain qualified teacher status, and provide a supportive environment.

Young People: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to encourage *(a)* statutory agencies and *(b)* post-16 providers to work together to ensure disabled young people are supported they need to access the further education course of their choice; and if he will make a statement. [76582]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The Government put forward proposals to strengthen links and co-operation between those who plan, deliver and support further education and training for disabled students from age 16 in the Green Paper "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 9 March. Following this, the Green Paper pathfinders announced on 21 September will test the provision of strong partnerships between all local services and statutory agencies to ensure that disabled students are helped to access the educational choice and support they need.

The Government will set out their plans for improving the support and outcomes of disabled young people and those with SEN by the end of the year, following analysis of the responses to the Green Paper.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many learning difficulty assessments for disabled young people planning to attend further education were carried out in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [76583]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Local authorities are responsible for arranging learning difficulty assessments. They have a duty to arrange an assessment for all young people who hold a statement of special educational need, if they are leaving school to undertake post-16 education or training. They also have the power to arrange an assessment for other young people aged 16-24 if they appear to the authority to have a learning difficulty.

Local authorities hold their own records and the Department does not collect or hold data showing how many learning difficulty assessments have taken place.

CABINET OFFICE

Eggs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to ensure that all Government food and catering contracts require that all eggs be sourced from farms that meet the welfare of laying hens directive from January 2012. [76054]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

We will be making necessary changes to the Government Buying Standards mandatory criteria to ensure eggs produced in conventional cages, in an illegal production system across the EU after 2012, should not be used in any form whether this is fresh, powdered or liquid.

Electoral Register

James Wharton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what records are kept of the number of Commonwealth citizens on the UK electoral register. [77548]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what records are kept of the number of Commonwealth citizens on the UK electoral register (77548).

ONS does not hold specific data on the number of Commonwealth citizens registered to vote.

Government: Procurement

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will announce a date for the start of the Lean Procurement programme. [76914]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The Government are committed to making Government procurement quicker, cheaper and work differently for all concerned. The Lean Review conducted in late 2010 set out to uncover wasteful practices and examine how the procurement process could be accelerated. The report was published in February 2011 identifying significant potential to reduce turnaround time and costs in the way Government procure. Since then, the Cabinet Office has developed a new lean sourcing process embracing 'lean' management practices. The new process is being tested on live procurement projects, with promising early results, and a pilot training course has been designed and run. Roll out across central Government is due to commence in early 2012.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the Lean Procurement programme. [77027]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* I have discussed the Lean Procurement programme regularly with a variety of Cabinet colleagues, including the Deputy Prime Minister, as part of the Cabinet Committee process.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the Central Office of Information using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [75821]

Mr Maude: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Emma Lochhead/Graham Hooper, dated 20 October 2011:

As Joint Chief Executives of the Central Office of Information (COI), we have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question 75821 regarding transactions made using the Government Procurement Card (GPC).

The Central Office of Information (COI) uses the Government Procurement Card as it is an efficient way of processing low value transactions.

This Government is committed to transparency and we believe the information regarding Government Procurement Cards for this financial year is the most relevant. Central Government Departments will be publishing any transactions over £500 on their websites, starting with 2011/2012 Quarter 1 (April – June) data at the end of October and then on a monthly basis.

The cost work required to obtain, contextualise and report data for Central Office of Information from the last 3 years would exceed the cost limits of a Freedom of Information request or a Parliamentary question.

Industrial Disputes

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of days lost in the *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector through industrial action which has not been sanctioned by a trade union since May 2010. [77957]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of days lost in the (a) private sector and (b) public sector through industrial action which has not been sanctioned by a trade union since May 2010. [77957]

Monthly statistics on the number of labour disputes are available in table 20 of the Statistical Bulletin for Labour Market statistics at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, ONS does not collect information on whether a strike was sanctioned by a trade union or not.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many registered charities, co-operatives, social enterprises and other civil society organisations there were at the start of the financial year in each of the last five years. [77397]

Mr Hurd: Data are not available to provide an estimate of the number of civil society organisations in each of the last five years.

Latest data from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations shows that in 2007-08 there were an estimated 900,000 civil society organisations in the UK. This includes 171,000 registered charities, 4,600 co-operatives and approximately 600,000 informal community groups.

HEALTH

Blood: Donors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the sufficiency of levels of blood donation. [77059]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) collects and supplies blood to hospitals in England and North Wales. Its overall stock target is around 45,000 to 55,000 units of blood, which is approximately seven days' stock. A regular supply of blood is vital because donated blood has a short shelf life—once it is outside the body, red cells last 35 days and platelets only seven days. There has been no shortage of blood for many years.

NHSBT has an alert system in place to monitor and take action if supplies of any blood group are below the target levels. In addition, NHSBT runs appeals for donors to come forward at times of the year when they may be less likely to donate, for example during high profile sporting events such as the World Cup, or when bad weather makes it more difficult for donors to attend blood donation sessions.

Breast Cancer

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what involvement his Department has had in Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2011; [77133]

(2) what steps he is taking to raise awareness of breast cancer in males. [77152]

Paul Burstow: I attended a number of events organised by charities to raise awareness of breast cancer including Breast Cancer Campaign's 'Wear It Pink' on 8 September and Breast Cancer Care's secondary breast cancer awareness day on 13 October. A departmental official attended Breakthrough Breast Cancer's annual Westminster Fly-In reception on 17 October 2011.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, committed over £450 million over the next four years to support earlier diagnosis of cancer. This money will fund increased general practitioner access to diagnostic tests; pay for more testing and treatment in secondary care; and support campaigns to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer.

In 2010-11, we funded campaigns to raise awareness of common cancers including breast, bowel and lung cancers. In 2011-12, we are funding national, regional and local campaigns to raise awareness of breast cancer in women over 70s, bowel, lung, oesophagus and stomach and a generic campaign on blood in urine, which can be a marker for bladder and kidney cancers.

In men, breast cancer is very rare. There are about 300 men diagnosed each year in the England, compared with over 40,000 cases of breast cancer in women.

Breast Cancer: Waiting Lists

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was between seeing a GP and a specialist for breast cancer patients in each of the last 10 years. [77132]

Paul Burstow: Statistics on average waiting times between an urgent referral for suspected breast cancer from the patient's own general practitioner (GP) to when they are first seen by a specialist are not collected centrally. Since December 2000, all patients that are referred urgently for suspected breast cancer by their GP could expect to be seen by a specialist within two weeks (14 days) of referral. Statistics showing overall performance are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/index.htm

The following table details the numbers of patients covered by this standard and the reported performance for England from the period Quarter 4 2008-09 to Quarter 1 2011-12.

Period	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Performance (percentage)*
2011-12			
Q1	52,305	50,728	97.0
2010-11			
Q4	52,905	51,359	97.1
Q3	49,572	48,308	97.5
Q2	54,405	52,377	96.3
Q1	52,020	50,193	96.5
2009-10			
Q4	48,961	47,559	97.1
Q3	47,289	45,863	97.0
Q2	44,136	42,409	96.1
Q1	44,749	42,648	95.3
2008-09			
Q4	41,033	39,214	95.6

From 1 January 2009 onwards the definitions and methodology used to calculate these statistics are no longer directly comparable to those used previously. This change means that the national health service no longer adjusts the statistics for the two week wait to separate referrals after 24 hours or account for patient choice, where individuals elect to delay their appointment. Statistics for the period Q1 2001-02 to Q3 2008-09 are included as follows:

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Performance (percentage)*
2008-09			
Q3	40,417	40,372	99.9
Q2	38,651	38,492	99.6
Q1	41,424	41,349	99.8
2007-08			
Q4	37,263	37,200	99.8
Q3	38,197	38,169	99.9
Q2	33,213	33,204	100.0
Q1	33,694	33,680	100.0
2006-07			
Q4	34,485	34,471	100.0
Q3	36,682	36,669	100.0
Q2	33,090	33,078	100.0
Q1	34,725	34,710	100.0
2005-06			
Q4	33,089	33,071	99.9
Q3	33,441	33,424	99.9
Q2	33,782	33,605	99.5
Q1	35,607	35,436	99.5
2004-05			
Q4	28,230	28,169	99.8
Q3	32,990	32,944	99.9
Q2	27,895	27,836	99.8
Q1	30,416	30,287	99.6
2003-04			
Q4	29,812	29,564	99.2
Q3	32,785	32,197	98.2
Q2	29,165	28,671	98.3
Q1	26,537	26,072	98.2
2002-03			
Q4	25,947	25,516	98.3
Q3	27,939	27,572	98.7

Period (where referral was received within 24 hours)	*Total seen*	*Number of patients seen within 14 days*	*Performance (percentage)*
Q2	26,377	25,943	98.4
Q1	24,560	23,954	97.5
2001-02			
Q4	24,041	23,680	98.5
Q3	25,050	24,356	97.2
Q2	23,039	21,624	93.9
Q1	21,918	21,001	95.8

Cannabis: Mental Illness

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects his Department is sponsoring into any relationship between high THC cannabis and psychosis; and if he will make a statement. [77211]

Anne Milton: With funding from the Department, the Centre for Public Health and School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences at Liverpool John Moores university produced a report summarising recent research evidence on the health harms of drugs, A Summary of the Health Harms of Drugs, which was published in August 2011.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs published a report, "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health", in May 2008. This found a probable but weak causal link between psychotic illness and cannabis use, but whether this would become stronger with the wider use of higher potency cannabis was uncertain.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Work which the MRC is currently supporting in this area includes:

Professor G. Lewis, university of Bristol: The aetiology of psychosis high-risk mental states during adolescence in the ALSPAC cohort;

Professor V. Curran, University college London: What determines an individual's vulnerability to the harmful effects of cannabis?; and

Dr P. Morrison, Institute of Psychiatry: Cannabinoids in psychosis: Mechanisms and Therapeutics.

Work is being carried out at the university of Bristol on the psychoactive properties of cannabis as part of the Severnside Alliance for Translational Research (SARTRE) collaboration.

Further details of these projects can be found on the MRC's online research portfolio at:

www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Carers

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered carers in the UK are aged *(a)* 29 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59, *(d)* 60 to 69, *(e)* 70 to 79 and *(f)* 80 and above. [77561]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold this information, as carers who support friends and family members are not required to register with local authorities.

The 2001 census shows that in England and Wales, there were 5.2 million carers, one in 10 of the population.

Continuing Care

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are in receipt of NHS continuing care funding *(a)* by local authority area and *(b)* in total. [77678]

Paul Burstow: 53,466 people were in receipt of continuing health care in England at the end of June 2011.

These data are not available by local authority area.

Dementia

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on dementia research in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of spending on such research in each of the next three financial years. [77725]

Paul Burstow: Dementia is a research priority for the Government. The Department's expenditure on dementia research increased from £12.7 million in 2009-10 to £18.6 million in 2010-11.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including dementia. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas including dementia, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity. The Department does not therefore make estimates of future expenditure in specific disease areas.

The NIHR has issued a themed call on dementia. In addition, four new NIHR biomedical research units in dementia will receive a total of £18 million over five years from April 2012.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77502]

Mr Simon Burns: Following the establishment of efficiency measures by the Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office in 2010, the Department put in place arrangements to implement good practice and compliance with the requirements. This includes management of professional services that is applicable to consultancy and contingent labour requirements. Separate arrangements are in place on recruitment controls in the Department for staffing requirements.

No staff are employed on full-time management consultancy contracts in the Department. According to our Business Management System, as at 30 September 2011, there were 114.4 full-time equivalent workers engaged as interim managers or specialist contractors.

Diabetes: Research

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on medical research on *(a)* type one diabetes and *(b)* type two diabetes in the last financial year; and if he will make a statement. [77284]

Paul Burstow: Data for expenditure by the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on diabetes research are currently not held centrally. The Department is increasing its routine monitoring of NIHR expenditure across all therapeutic areas. Data are being coded using the Health Research Classification System (HRCS) developed by the UK Clinical Research Collaboration. It is anticipated that data on NIHR spend in 2010-11 in the HRCS Health Categories will be available by December 2011.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network currently has 211 studies in diabetes that are in set-up or recruiting patients. The breakdown is as follows:

Studies

Type	*Number*
1	41
2	93
1 and 2	58
Other diabetes-related	19

Dignitas

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department collects information on the number of people from the UK who travel to Dignitas in Switzerland who are *(a)* patients and *(b)* accompanying patients; and if he will make a statement. [77167]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect this information.

Diseases: Older People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the risk of *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* diabetes and *(d)* strokes to the elderly. [77057]

Mr Simon Burns: Generally, the risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke and kidney disease increases with age. However, there are other fixed risk factors—sex, ethnicity and family history—common to these diseases. There are also important modifiable risk factors for all these diseases that are smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol and obesity. If these are managed appropriately, they will reduce the risk of heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and stroke.

The NHS Health Check programme is a universal and systematic programme for people in England between the ages of 40-74 that assesses individuals' risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice and support. This programme has the potential to prevent 1,600 heart attacks and strokes a year and detect at least 20,000 cases of diabetes or kidney disease earlier allowing individuals to be better managed and improve their quality of life.

General Practitioners

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the rights of *(a)* patients and *(b)* members of the public to know the place of work of a GP working for the NHS. [77228]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the terms of their contracts, general practitioner practices are required to produce a practice leaflet, updated at least once a year, and made available to patients and prospective patients. This must include the full names and qualifications of the health care professionals performing services under the contract, and the address of each of the practices' premises.

Details of the names and qualifications of general practitioners and other health care professional staff in practices, and addresses, are also available on the NHS Choices website.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will maintain the agreement it reached with NHS Employers, the General Practitioners Committee and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2009 on the dispensing fee envelope in 2009 and adjust the fees due to be paid to dispensing doctors for 2011-12 under the terms of that agreement. [75697]

Mr Simon Burns: We can confirm the Department is maintaining the agreement.

Under that agreement explicit provision was made to refer to negotiators the setting of any new feescale envelope where the amount spent under the previous budget envelope varied by more than 1%.

The amount spent on dispensing fees in 2010-11 was £160.1 million which was £8.6 million, or 5.1%, lower than the budget envelope of £168.7 million. As a result, the feescale calculation continues to be matter of ongoing discussion.

Once the negotiations between the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association and NHS Employers have been concluded and Ministers have considered the outcome, an announcement will be made.

Health Education: Drugs

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* prevention and *(b)* harm reduction in the area of drug education; and if he will make a statement. [77213]

Anne Milton: As part of the development of the Drugs Strategy, officials and analysts looked at published evaluations of drug education programmes, including those which are school based. We will continue to review our approach as further significant research is published.

The Department for Education is undertaking an internal review of personal, social and health education (PSHE). The review will include identifying evidence based interventions that are proven to get good results in achieving the outcomes we want from PSHE. This will include interventions on drugs.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual *(a)* net and *(b)* gross payments made by the Government to other European economic area countries were under the European health insurance card scheme in (i) the latest year for which figures are available and (ii) each year since 1997. [76939]

Anne Milton: The following table provides available information of payments to and from member states of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. The amounts relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European health insurance cards), workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

£

Financial year	*Total paid by United Kingdom to other EEA member states*	*Total paid by other EEA member states to UK*
2007-08	93,200,000	19,700,000
2008-09	113,200,000	24,700,000
2009-10	117,900,000	27,700,000
2010-11	62,400,000	26,300,000

Notes:

1. £ equivalent totals based on exchange rates at the time of the payment.

2. Totals are rounded to the nearest £100,000. 3. Comparable data for earlier years are not available.

Heart Diseases: Children

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Safe and Sustainable Review into children's heart surgery units in England to be completed. [77689]

Mr Simon Burns: The review of children's congenital heart services is a clinically led national health service review, independent of Government.

The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts responsible for the review expects to make a decision later this year. This is subject to the outcome of a judicial review brought by the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Trust.

Herbal Medicine: EU Law

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what powers the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has to ensure compliance with Directive 2004/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on traditional herbal medicinal products; and if he will make a statement; [77230]

(2) how long on average it takes the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to process a complaint against a herbal manufacturer for non-compliance with Directive 2004/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on traditional herbal medicinal products; and if he will make a statement; [77231]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of herbal medicines on sale which have not been registered under the traditional herbal medicines registration scheme; and if he will make a statement; [77232]

(4) how many complaints the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have received from manufacturers of herbal medicines on the enforcement of Directive 2004/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on traditional herbal medicinal products; and if he will make a statement. [77233]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc) Regulations 1994 make it an offence to place a medicine on the market without the appropriate authorisation or to distribute such a product by way of wholesale dealing. Breaches of the regulations are a criminal offence and can be punished by up to two years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. Prior to the date of full implementation of Directive 2004/24/EC the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) wrote to 272 companies which it believed to be involved in the supply of herbal products in the United Kingdom. 132 replied saying that they marketed some 2,915 products under the section 12(2) exemption from licensing contained in the Medicines Act 1968. The Medicines Borderline Section of the MHRA is currently investigating nine companies complained about by the manufacturers of registered herbal medicines. The time taken to process a complaint will depend on the complexity of the case, the number of products involved and the response from the company concerned. Five other complaints have been investigated by the section and closed. The average time taken to process these was 19 days.

Hospital Wards

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many in-patients stayed in mixed-sex wards in *(a)* December 2010 and *(b)* August 2011. [77433]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information on the number of patients in mixed-sex wards.

Information is collected on the number of patients whose care is in breach of guidance on mixed-sex sleeping arrangements, and this shows a fall from 11,802 breaches in December 2010 to 1,079 in September 2011. This is a reduction of more than 90% in just 10 months.

By publishing regular and reliable data, bad performance has been highlighted and the number of breaches of the rules has been substantially reduced.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's guidance on mixed sex wards is followed by NHS hospitals. [77531]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government remain determined to end the indignity of patients staying in mixed-sex accommodation. This commitment can be found in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12", which states:

> "All providers of NHS funded care are expected to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation except where it is in the overall best interest of the patient".

The latest figures show that breaches of the rules on mixed-sex accommodation have fallen from 11,802 to 1,079 in just 10 months. Despite this huge improvement, every unjustified breach is one too many. We will continue to publish regular and reliable data about how every hospital is performing and those hospitals that have still to tackle the problem will continue to face fines of £250 for every breach.

Influenza: Vaccination

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of seasonal influenza vaccine by the NHS to people diagnosed with myalgic encephalopathy. [77180]

Anne Milton: Myalgic encephalopathy (ME) is not a specific clinical risk group identified for influenza immunisation. ME is a poorly defined syndrome with a number of different characteristics in children and adults. As such, medical professionals are encouraged to consider individual patient circumstances for those diagnosed as having ME and use clinical judgment to take into account the risk of influenza exacerbating any underlying disease that any patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from influenza itself with vaccination offered in such cases.

Maternity Services: Expenditure

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will state *(a)* how much and *(b)* what proportion of spending by the NHS was spent on maternity care in 2010-11. [76900]

Anne Milton: In 2010-11, expenditure on the purchase of secondary healthcare relating to maternity services by primary care trusts was £2.532 billion. This represents approximately 2.6% of the total national health service revenue expenditure in 2010-11 of £98.894 billion.

Medical Records

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* guidelines and *(b)* regulations apply to access to medical records by mentally competent, dying patients. [77165]

Mr Simon Burns: The Data Protection Act 1998 governs the rights of access to health records of the living. National health service organisations can chose to disclose information to individuals outside of the provisions of this Act, subject to confidentiality considerations.

The Department published guidance in February 2010, titled "Guidance for Access to Health Record Requests", to the NHS and public around access to health records. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112916

Medical Records: South West

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of the transfer of patients records in *(a)* areas administered by NHS Shared Business Services, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* the South West. [77250]

Mr Simon Burns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has not made an assessment of the performance of the transfer of patients records in areas administered by NHS Shared Business Services, Devon and the South West.

The South of England strategic health authority (formerly known as South West strategic health authority) would expect primary care trusts to performance manage their contracts and any assessment of performance would be carried out locally.

Muscular Dystrophy

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the amount spent by the NHS on unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [76951]

Paul Burstow: Information on the cost of unplanned emergency admissions to hospital for people with neuromuscular conditions is not collected centrally.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason form HC1 is not available to download in England. [76943]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Low Income Scheme HC1 application form is available to order by phone or via the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website:

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HealthCosts/1128.aspx

and is provided with a pre-paid envelope. For reasons of processing efficiency and to give applicants the benefit of the prepaid envelope, a downloadable web version of the HC1 form has not been made available. The NHSBSA will continue to explore options to improve access to the application form.

Ovarian Cancer

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the detection and treatment of ovarian cancer. [76980]

Paul Burstow: In "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, we have committed over £450 million over the next four years to support earlier diagnosis of cancer. This money will fund increased general practitioner (GP) access to diagnostic tests; pay for more testing and treatment in secondary care; and support campaigns to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer. One of the tests we are increasing access to is non-obstetric ultrasound to support the diagnosis of ovarian cancer. GPs will be able to access these tests directly in cases where the two-week urgent referral pathway is not appropriate but a patient's symptoms require further investigation. The intention is that more people presenting with relevant symptoms will be tested at an earlier stage.

Early symptoms of ovarian cancer can include pain in the pelvis and lower stomach, persistent bloating and difficulty eating. However, they can be difficult to recognise, especially when the disease is at an early stage, as they are often the same as the symptoms of other, less serious conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome or pre-menstrual syndrome.

In April this year, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline, the "Recognition and initial management of ovarian cancer", which sets out recommendations for the detection of the disease in primary care. In addition to this, NICE is developing a Quality Standard for ovarian cancer which will set out what good ovarian cancer treatment and support looks like and will help support clinical commissioning groups when they take responsibility for commissioning ovarian cancer services. Detection of ovarian cancer in primary care will be considered when developing this standard.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care and to diagnose rarer cancers earlier. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including an ovarian cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

We are also part of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership to understand why there are differences in survival rates across a range of countries. Ovarian cancer is one the four cancers we are looking at as part of the study. This will help identify what more we should be doing to improve survival rates for ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer: Huddersfield

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess recent trends in the rates of detection and treatment of ovarian cancer in Huddersfield. [76979]

Paul Burstow: Data are not collected centrally about rates of detection or treatment of ovarian cancer. As such, the Department has made no assessment of associated trends in Huddersfield. It is for the national health service to decide locally how best to design and deliver appropriate services to meet the needs of local people.

Palliative Care

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of cases where life-sustaining treatment has been removed at the end of life in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [77631]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not undertaken any assessments of the number of cases where life-sustaining treatment has been removed at the end of life.

Patients: Death

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rates were for each NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [77399]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care has recently published information on an experimental risk adjusted mortality rate for national health service trusts (the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator). This indicator was developed on behalf of the National Quality Board by a review group of experts from the NHS and from the commercial sector, and is intended to provide a more reliable assessment of relative mortality than previous measures. Individual trust data for the new indicator, covering the period April 2010 to March 2011, are available from the Information Centre website on:

http://indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/index.jsp?v=2&submode=ddi&study=http%3A%2F%2Fhg-l-app-472.ic.green.net%3A80%2Fobj%2FfStudy%2FP01106&mode=documentation&top=yes

Information on this measure is not available for previous years.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 311W, on radiotherapy, whether he proposes that the commissioning of stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment will be undertaken by local clinical commissioning groups or by the NHS Commissioning Board. [77654]

Paul Burstow: No decisions have yet been taken on the future commissioning arrangements for stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment.

Ritalin

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the proportion of adults prescribed Ritalin or similar drugs who were recipients of such drugs as a child. [77475]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number and age of people prescribed a medicine is not collected centrally.

Ritalin is a branded version of the drug methylphenidate hydrochloride.

The total number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for methylphenidate hydrochloride (including Ritalin) in the calendar year 2010 was 661,463. Of these, 18,812 items were for Ritalin.

Two other drugs are also licensed for use in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. These are atomoxetine and dexamfetamine. In 2010, there were 93,414 prescription items of atomoxetine and 45,519 prescription items of dexamfetamine dispensed in the community in England.

Social Services

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he plans to review the role of the Care Quality Commission as part of his forthcoming White Paper on Social Care. [77724]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) took over as the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England on 1 April 2009. In line with the Government's commitment to review the burden of regulation, we are intending to carry out a review of the role of CQC and its regulatory framework within five years of its establishment.

Speech Therapy

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to maintain speech and language therapy services in *(a)* Wandsworth and *(b)* England; [77278]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* patient quality, *(b)* choice and *(c)* cost-effectiveness of a reduction in clinical leadership posts in speech and language therapy services; [77279]

(3) what steps he is taking to maintain the services provided by speech and language therapists in *(a)* schools and *(b)* primary care trusts following reductions in the budgets of local authorities; [77280]

(4) whether he has plans to produce national standards for speech and language therapy services across England to prevent geographical inequalities; and if he will make a statement. [77281]

Anne Milton: There have been no assessments carried out centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to decide how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of speech and language therapy.

Where NHS organisations are planning changes to their work force, they will need to demonstrate that their systems, processes and governance arrangements, including clinical leadership, are appropriate for assuring that the proposed service does not compromise the quality and safety of patient care.

The Health and Social Care Bill provides the basis for better collaboration, partnership working and integration across local government and the NHS at all levels. The drivers of integration in the modernised NHS will be clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board. Both have new duties to promote integrated working by taking specific action to secure integration (where beneficial to patients). In addition, the Bill gives health and well-being boards a duty to encourage health and care commissioners to work together to advance the health and well-being of the people in its area.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) produces Quality Standards for England. NICE, jointly with the National Quality Board, recently ran an engagement exercise on the library of NICE Quality Standard NHS healthcare topics. As part of this, exercise a provisional list of topics that might form part of the overall library was published inviting comments. Although a quality standard on speech and language therapy was not included in this provisional list, the purpose of the engagement exercise was to canvass views on whether other topics should be included within the library. The engagement exercise closed on 14 October 2011. NICE is currently analysing the responses received and will be able to provide more information in due course. Once published, the library of topics will be reviewed at regular intervals allowing new topics to be added and quality standards in those areas to be included within NICE'S production schedule. Further information on the engagement exercise can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to initiate an inquiry into the mortality rates at the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust. [77319]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans for the Department to investigate the level of mortality rates at the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust.

Mortality rates alone do not provide a full picture of a hospital's performance or the standard of care given to patients. However, the Department expects any national health service trust with a high mortality rate to examine whether quality of care is a concern. The independent regulator, Care Quality Commission, uses a range of indicators, including mortality indicators, to monitor compliance with the essential standards of quality and safety and to identify any areas requiring further investigation.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess compliance by Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with his Department's guidelines in its commissioning of vascular services. [77566]

Mr Simon Burns: Decisions about the provision of national health services locally, including vascular services, are a matter for the local NHS. In December 2010, the Department issued a resource pack, for reference purposes only, to assist the NHS in reviewing vascular services in line with local needs. As such, no assessment will be undertaken by Ministers.

We expect decisions on NHS service changes to meet new strengthened criteria. They must focus on improving patient outcomes, consider patient choice, have support from local commissioners and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Commissioners in Cheshire and Merseyside will need to be assured that changes to vascular services meet these criteria.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Afghanistan: Security

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of security in Lashkar Gah since the transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan forces. [73288]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have been asked to respond.

The security situation in Lashkar Gah is routinely assessed by UK forces and the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team. While the full implications of the transfer of security lead remain to be seen, initial assessments are positive. UK forces have reported that the Afghan forces are growing in confidence and keen to be in the lead. Their progress has been demonstrated by their professional responses to insurgent attacks, co-ordinating effectively with local emergency services.

UK forces remain on stand-by to assist the Afghan national security forces in Lashkar Gah but there have not been any requests for our support since the start of Transition.

Animal Experiments: Cosmetics

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what response he plans to make to the European Commission's consultation on the future of the ban on marketing of cosmetics tested on animals. [76911]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* No proposal has been received from the European Commission about the 2013 deadline for the full marketing ban. We do, however, expect a decision about a proposal by the end of the year.

Arms Trade: Israel

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any export licences for components for *(a)* F-16s and *(b)* Apache helicopters for use by Israel have been granted since May 2010; and on what dates any such licences were granted. [76992]

Mr Prisk: No export licences of this type have been granted since May 2010.

Balance of Trade: EU countries

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the size of the UK trade deficit with the EU was in each of the last five years. [77214]

Mr Davey: As published by the Office for National Statistics, the balance of trade between the United Kingdom and the European Union over the last five years was as follows:

UK's balance of trade in goods and services with the EU

	£ million
2006	-29,616
2007	-35,235
2008	-28,582
2009	-27,421
2010	-35,534

Business

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has held with small and medium-sized enterprises on implementation of the Plan for Growth; and if he will make a statement. [77197]

Mr Prisk: Ministers and officials regularly seek the views of small business stakeholders across a wide range of policy issues, including those areas covered in the Plan for Growth. For example, on 20 June 2011 the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), participated in a manufacturing summit in Burnley with manufacturing firms from across Lancashire. On 25 October 2011, I co-chaired the first meeting of the Green Construction Board to consider the growth opportunities presented by a sustainable construction and property sector. In August, the Department held a series of meetings with businesses on transforming regulatory enforcement which included small and medium-sized enterprises and their representative bodies. There has also been extensive engagement and communication with the small business community as part of the development of the second phase of the Growth Review which is due to report in November.

Construction Industry

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of the construction sector on recent trends in economic activity in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [77173]

Mr Prisk: As the Minister for Business and Enterprise, I, the Construction Sector Unit and the chief construction adviser meet regularly with a wide range of organisations across the construction sector. Discussions cover all of the opportunities and challenges facing the industry, including the current economic climate.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely levels of growth in the construction industry in *(a)* 2013 and *(b)* 2014; and if he will make a statement. [77174]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not forecast trends in construction output. We do monitor estimates of future growth that are produced by others, particularly Experian and the Construction Products Association (CPA).

In its latest forecast, the CPA predicts that construction output will fall in 2011 by 1.1% and in 2012 by 3.6%. Growth is forecast to be flat (0.0%) in 2013, with the sector returning to growth of 3.7% in 2014, which will accelerate to 4.7% in 2015.

Experian's autumn forecasts predict a shallower fall in output in 2011 and 2012 than its previous forecast, as publicly funded construction is holding up better than expected and infrastructure remains firm. Recovery is forecast in 2013, with 3.7% growth. Experian does not produce forecasts beyond 2013.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to support the construction industry. [77569]

Mr Prisk: The Government are acting positively to support the construction industry through the growth review; including reforming the planning system, modernising public sector procurement and setting out a National Infrastructure Plan, which will unlock up to £200 billion of public and private investment.

Earlier this month I co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Green Construction Board along with Dan Labbad, chief executive of Lend Lease. This group will ensure that the Government and industry work together to seize the opportunities presented by a sustainable construction and property sector.

In September it was announced that Whitehall will look at where we can speed up delivery of our infrastructure commitments. This involves going through the nation's capital spending plans to hand-pick up to 40 of the biggest infrastructure projects which will be given new special priority status.

BIS is working closely with HM Treasury to take forward this initiative, at all times emphasising the importance of high quality infrastructure for business. Some specific areas include:

Investment in infrastructure projects through the next round of the regional growth fund;

Investing in low carbon infrastructure through the Green Investment Bank which will begin investing in 2012,

Improving the UK's sales pitch to investors through Lord Green's work at UKTI,

Supporting work to reform the planning system to support sustainable development,

Working across Government to implement the Penfold review to simplify non-planning consents,

Using the Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) local network to provide feedback on projects seen as significant at a local level,

Working with other Government Departments to implement the £500 million Growing Places fund announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 18 September and proposals for Tax Incremental Finance.

While BIS has no specific policies addressing access to finance for construction companies, it does have a range of applicable support for small and medium-sized enterprises, including the Regional Growth Fund, Enterprise Finance Guarantee, Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, and continuation of the Government's Enterprise Capital Funds.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77499]

Mr Davey: Currently no full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts.

Consultants are engaged as required to carry out project work at a strategic and objective level in pursuit of the Department's purposes and objectives. Such advice is contracted to be provided outside the "business-as-usual" environment when in-house skills are not available and is time-limited.

The latest report shows we have 77 consultants within the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Further Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to maintain free remission on adult and further education courses for learners on all income-related benefits. [77360]

Mr Hayes: 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published in November 2010, set out where full Government funding would be focused for the 2011/12 academic year.

Irrespective of their benefit status this included, for adults aged 19 and over, basic literacy and numeracy qualifications, foundation learning (entry and level 1) where they do not already hold a full level 2 qualification and first, full level 2 qualifications. Full Government funding will also be provided for learners aged 19 up to 25 where they are undertaking their first full level 3 qualification.

As part of the Government's commitment to support unemployed people into work, we will also fully fund units and full qualifications for people in receipt of jobseekers' allowance and employment support allowance (in the Work Related Activity Group) depending on what they need to help them enter and stay in work.

In line with the introduction of further freedoms and flexibilities, on 9 August my Department announced that further education (FE) colleges and training providers would be given local discretion to provide fully funded training for people on a wider range of benefits—provided that the training is to help them enter employment. We expect FE colleges and training organisations to work closely with local partners including Jobcentre Plus to ensure training offered to these learners meets local labour market needs.

Adult FE and skills funding policy for the 2012/13 academic year will be confirmed later this year.

Further Education: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve support available for further education students with *(a)* disabilities and *(b)* learning difficulties. [77196]

Mr Hayes: 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' (November, 2010) recognises the importance of access to further education and skills training for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

From the 2011/12 academic year we have introduced a single adult skills budget. This provides further education colleges and other training organisations with the flexibility to offer a range and balance of programmes and support in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of students with disabilities and learning difficulties. Funding for additional learning support is also provided to colleges and other training organisations to help support the additional needs of disadvantaged learners, enabling them to participate fully in learning. The funding is intended to be flexible and support learners who have a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Government: Procurement

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects of off-shoring UK Government manufacturing contracts on *(a)* other UK-based businesses in the supply chain and *(b)* local economies; and if he will make a statement. [77240]

Mr Prisk: As stated by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on 5 July, the Government are considering whether the UK is best applying the EU procurement rules and managing our procurements to maintain competitive UK supply chains to meet our strategic needs, cost-effectively, in the long term. This review has sought evidence from key suppliers of high value manufactured goods and complex infrastructure on:

the impacts of the UK public procurement approach, and

how the UK approach compares to that of other EU countries.

Conclusions arising from this work will be published as part of the growth review, alongside the autumn statement.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he expects to bring forward legislative proposals to provide for the independence of the Green Investment Bank; [76928]

(2) what *(a)* legal and *(b)* regulatory requirements the Green Investment Bank will have to comply with; [76929]

(3) what steps he plans to take to oversee the state aid approval process for the Green Investment Bank; [76932]

(4) what mechanism he has put in place for the transition of financial interventions made by the Government during the incubation phase to the Green Investment Bank after it has been established. [76934]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be subject to the same legal and regulatory requirements as any other bank. Legislation will enshrine the enduring and independent nature of the GIB and the GIB will be established as a Companies Act company, following best practice corporate governance.

The UK's proposals for creating the GIB are subject to approval by the European Commission, which will examine whether the proposals are compatible with the provisions of the EU Treaty as it relates to state aid. The Government are in close engagement with the European Commission to obtain state aid approval for the GIB.

In the period prior to obtaining state aid approval for a GIB, HMG will make appropriate financial interventions to promote the transition to a green economy. All such investments must be compatible with state aid law, meaning that any state aid involved must be within existing state aid exemptions or approvals. These assets will be transferred to the GIB to manage once state aid approval has been received.

No final decision has been made on when to introduce legislation.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has appointed financial professionals to support the Green Investment Bank; and whether any such appointments were from Government departments. [76931]

Mr Prisk: Following competitive tendering processes, the Department has been supported by Deloitte, McKinsey and Company, and Slaughter and May to provide specialist advice on issues ranging from financial modelling of potential products to the legal and regulatory requirements to setting up the Green Investment Bank .

The Department has also established an Advisory Group comprising experienced financial professionals to advise on the setting up of the institution. The group, chaired by Sir Adrian Montague, is advising Ministers on the establishment of the Green Investment Bank and its strategic direction.

The nine members have a wide range of experience and capability in finance, from building and running institutions to project finance and making transactions. The group also includes expertise in green economics, sustainable and responsible financial services and development banking. The Chair and members are unpaid and provide their time on a voluntary basis.

We are currently recruiting a team of transactors to supplement finance professional from HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the business plan for the Green Investment Bank. [76933]

Mr Prisk: The Department is currently developing the detailed business plan for the Green Investment Bank and will update the House in due course. A first report on investments made by the Green investment Bank is planned for May 2013.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Government's Advisory Group for the long-term direction of the Green Investment Bank will be established; and who will be appointed to the Group. [76936]

Mr Prisk: The Advisory Group, chaired by Sir Adrian Montague, was established in August and met for the first time on 6 September 2011. The nine members appointed to the Advisory Group are:

Simon Brooks, UK Vice President, European Investment Bank

John Burnham, Former Managing Director and Global Head of Infrastructure, Citigroup

David Gregson, Chief Executive, Phoenix Equity Partners

Melville Haggard, Managing Director, Quartermain Advisers Limited, former advisor to DEFRA

Dima Rifai, Managing Partner, Paradigm Change Capital Partners LLP

Penny Shepherd, Chief Executive, UKSIF (UK Sustainable Investment and Finance)

James Smith, Former Chairman of Shell UK, now Chairman of the Carbon Trust

Lord Stern of Brentford, Professor of Economics and Government, London School of Economics

Bob Wigley, Chairman, Yell Group, former Chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe, Middle East and Africa and chaired the Green Investment Bank Commission which reported in July 2010.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to announce how the Green Investment Bank will support the initial stages of the green deal. [77202]

Mr Prisk: We have not reached any firm conclusions on whether the Green Investment Bank (GIB) ought to have a role in financing the green deal. As with other potential areas of the GIB mandate, we are continuing to engage with stakeholders on what role could potentially be appropriate for the GIB in the green deal. Some potential investors in the green deal have asked us to consider the potential for the GIB to support the financing of investment in domestic energy efficiency during the first stages of green deal delivery, alongside commercial investment.

Higher Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish *(a)* the responses received by individual organisations and *(b)* his response to the consultation on (i) teaching funding and student number controls by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and (ii) his Department's White Paper on Higher Education. [77476]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published a circular on 17 October which sets out how it would allocate new entrant places for 2012/13. This takes account of responses to its consultation on teaching funding and student number controls in areas such as protecting small and specialist institutions and strategically important and vulnerable subjects. In November, the council plans to publish a summary of all consultation responses and its proposals for allocating the teaching grant for 2012/13. Ministers will issue their instructions to the council on the latter in their grant letter to HEFCE by early 2012.

The consultation on the Higher Education White Paper (Students at the Heart of the System) closed on 20 September. The Department will respond in due course. This response will include a summary of all consultation responses and a list of the respondents.

Workers' Educational Association

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) of the outcomes of his Department's Informal Adult and Community Learning consultation; and how his Department plans to promote the role and work of the WEA. [77359]

Mr Hayes: The BIS consultation on the future of Informal Adult and Community Learning (IACL) closed on 21 October 2011 and we are now analysing the responses. Our headline policy proposals for IACL will be announced within the wider further education reform strategy to be published in late autumn.

As the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education and one of the UK's biggest charities, with more than 500 local branches, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is a key delivery partner and stakeholder. WEA has expertise in reaching adults from all backgrounds, particularly those who have previously missed out on learning. We value their partnership and support and will continue to work closely with them to develop and implement our adult learning policies.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Teachers

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to contribute through *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral programmes to teacher training and support of an effective teacher workforce in (i) Mozambique and (ii) the Gambia. [75684]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to contribute £18 million through bilateral programmes to education in Mozambique over the next four years (2011-12 to 2014-15). DFID also supports an effective teacher workforce by leading (on behalf of all bilateral and multilateral donors) the dialogue with the Ministry of Education on human resource issues.

Of the main multilateral funders of education in Mozambique to which DFID contributes, the World Bank plans to provide US$ 71 million (£45 million) over the period 2011 to 2015 and the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) plans to provide US$ 90 million (£57 million) over the period 2011 to 2014. Together, these bilateral and multilateral contributions will, among other things, help train an additional 28,000 primary school teachers over the next four years.

Following the Bilateral Aid Review, we are in the process of closing the UK's bilateral aid programme to the Gambia. We will continue to support development in the Gambia through our contributions to the multilateral development organisations, including the EU, World Bank and African Development Bank. The Gambia is one of the recipient countries for the FTI, to which the UK is the second largest donor, having committed over £300 million.

Argentina: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with his international counterparts on Argentina's refusal to comply with judgments by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. [77062]

Mr Duncan: No Ministers or officials from the Department for International Development have had any discussions with international counterparts on Argentina's refusal to comply with judgments by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Argentina: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's aid commitment is to Argentina across the comprehensive spending review period. [77076]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There is no Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral aid commitment to Argentina across the comprehensive spending review period.

Burma: Third Sector

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department funds to support civil society capacity building in Burma. [77131]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently approved an innovative new four-year programme of support to local civil society in Burma. This will help local organisations and individuals to work together to give an estimated 94,000 people a greater say in decisions affecting their lives. The programme—formally called the Burma Civil Society Strengthening Programme—will provide grants, mentoring and other support totalling £11 million to Burmese civil society organisations. It builds on the previous programme, which provided £4 million for civil society capacity building in Burma between 2008 and 2011.

Further details of DFID's projects are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Civil Service: Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [76386]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development currently has two non-departmental public bodies, one of which has employed civil servants directly since May 2011:

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has never had any civil servants either directly or otherwise employed.

The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) was put in place as a shadow operation in October 2010 and became fully operational only in May 2011. ICAI currently has four civil servant employees.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants work in his Department; and how many worked in his Department in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2010. [76389]

Mr O'Brien: As at 31 August 2011 there were 1,584 civil servants working in the Department for International Development. The following table details the staffing numbers for the previous years requested.

Staff

	Number
2000	1,876
2005	1,928
2007	1,765
2010	1,619

Regulation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [76457]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development only has powers to make secondary legislation by statutory instrument under the International Development Act 2002. Since that Act came into force on the 17 June 2002, the Secretary of State has made 26 statutory instruments under section 11 of the 2002 Act. Each of these instruments approves the making of a payment by the Secretary of State to a multilateral development bank. By year there were the following numbers of SI's made:

	Number
2002	3
2003	2
2004	1
2005	0
2006	6
2007	1
2008	4
2009	2
2010	1
2011	[1]6

[1] Up to the present date

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to provide all future fast start adaptation finance as grants through the UN Adaptation Fund rather than as loans through the World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience. [77138]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Decisions on adaptation programming will be based on an assessment of how we can most effectively deploy UK climate finance to vulnerable countries and communities to help them adapt to climate change. We will provide support bilaterally through our country programmes as well as through regional and multilateral organisations. Key elements that we will consider when reviewing multilateral organisations include: need, anticipated results, value for money, fiduciary risks and prioritisation of the most vulnerable countries.

Developing Countries: Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the effects of the recession on *(a)* developing countries and *(b)* developed country aid provision. [77081]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The information is as follows.

(a) I discussed the effects of the recession with a number of EU Development Ministers at the G20 and World Bank meetings in September in Washington. On both occasions Development Ministers made clear the importance of supporting developing countries through this period of financial instability.

(b) I also urged my European colleagues to stick to their aid commitments even in difficult economic times at the last EU Development Ministers meeting in May. EU Development Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to achieve EU aid targets by 2015. This was confirmed by the European Council one month later. I also raise this issue regularly in bilateral conversations, for example during my visit to Paris in September, and will continue to encourage others to meet their aid commitments.

Developing Countries: Females

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on promoting women's rights in developing countries in each of the last 12 months. [77073]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have put girls and women at the heart of international development. We are supporting girls and women through our 27 country programmes and we have announced £10 million each year core funding to UN Women, following its publication of a strategic results plan which we required before allocating core funding.

Since achieving results for girls and women spans DFID's entire portfolio, it is not possible to disaggregate a precise figure for aid allocated to promoting women's rights.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries. [77069]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government's policy on HIV in developing countries is set out in "Towards zero infections: the UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world" published on 31 May 2011.

In Africa, we will help reduce new HIV infections by at least 500,000 among women by 2015, and among key populations in at least six countries. Support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria will provide 37,000 HIV-positive women with treatment to prevent transmission to their babies and 268,000 people with treatment. Our work with the Clinton Health Access Initiative will generate cost-savings to buy AIDS medicines for 500,000 more people by 2015. Our focus on care and support will include cash transfers in at least five high-prevalence countries reaching at least 120,000 people affected by HIV.

Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department is making to the prevention of human trafficking in developing countries. [76797]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports projects in developing countries which specifically aim to reduce human trafficking. We support the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking Project, which aims to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children in Malawi who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked. In Bangladesh we support a Police Reform Programme which has established a Human Trafficking Investigations Unit. In Uganda, we have supported UNICEF to help identify and support trafficked women and children in the northern Karamoja region. DFID is currently developing a new regional anti-trafficking project in south Asia. The programme aims to reduce trafficking of women and girls in the region by 10% over four years. It will focus on trafficking into domestic work and the garment sector.

DFID also works to tackle the underlying factors which put people at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, lack of economic opportunities, vulnerability to economic shocks, and social exclusion.

Developing Countries: Malaria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle malaria in developing countries. [77047]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Addressing malaria is one of the main priorities of the UK Government. We announced in March 2011 that we are committed to helping halve malaria deaths in at least 10 of the worst affected countries by 2015. We will support action to sustain and expand gains into the future.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will deliver on this through support to country programmes, international organisations and research. In Nigeria, this includes distributing an additional 6 million long-lasting insecticide treated nets and help improve access to malaria treatment; in Sierra Leone it includes supporting prevention and treatment of malaria in pregnant women and young children, leading to a further 867,000 children sleeping under a LLIN and 230,000 women receiving malaria preventative treatment during pregnancy; and it includes providing support to the World Health Organisation's Global Malaria Programme to identify threats to malaria control and elimination, and to ensure new evidence results in better policies in country programmes.

I recently spoke at the launch of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Report; "A Decade of Partnership and Results" and attended the Malaria Forum, hosted by the Gates Foundation in October.

Developing Countries: Sickle Cell Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help people with sickle cell anaemia in developing countries. [77070]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: People with sickle cell anaemia rely on good quality, accessible health services for the antibiotics, vaccinations and treatment that they need. The Department for International Development helps developing countries to strengthen their health systems so that they can provide these services, for example by ensuring that skilled, motivated staff are in place and a reliable supply of medicines is available at all times. We also work with Governments to make services more accessible to the poor, for example by replacing health service user fees with more equitable financing mechanisms. In addition, our contribution to the GAVI Alliance provides vaccines against infectious diseases, including those that can pose particular problems for people with sickle cell anaemia.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what definition of domestic violence his Department uses. [77000]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has prioritised preventing violence against girls and women as one of four pillars of its Strategic Vision for Girls and Women.

DFID addresses domestic violence as one aspect of its broader work to tackle violence against girls and women, for which it uses the UN definition:

> "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".

Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees of his Department have been disciplined for drug offences in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [77071]

Mr Duncan: No employees in the Department for International Development have been disciplined for drug offences in the last 12 months.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects in Ethiopia have received funding from his Department in the last five years; which such projects are likely to receive such funding in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [77309]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have placed in the House of Commons Library a list of projects that the Department for International Development (DFID) has funded in Ethiopia in the last five years.

For the next four years DFID's Operational Plan for Ethiopia commits the Department to protect the most vulnerable Ethiopians, help achieve the millennium development goals by scaling up support for health, education, water and food security, and make our support more transformational by:

putting girls and women front and centre of all we do;

addressing geographical inequality that is the cause and consequence of fragility and conflict;

investing to accelerate growth, trade and investment;

increasing resilience for farmers to changing weather patterns;

empowering citizens and building domestic accountability;

innovating to leverage faster progress, for example by piloting results-based aid in education.

Over the next four years DFID will support: two million children in primary school (almost half will be girls); the delivery of half a million safe births; 1.4 million people to gain access to safe drinking water; the creation of 150,000 jobs (of which 112,500 for women and girls) and 3.5 million women with access to security and justice.

IRG Ltd

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has signed any contracts with IRG Ltd since May 2010. [77145]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has not signed any contracts with IRG Ltd since May 2010.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and (d) the first six months of 2011. [76358]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not have any in-house legal advisers.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [76397]

Mr O'Brien: TSol has opened 85 new files in respect of instances of advisory work and/or litigation since 2007. Many of these files will not involve civil litigation or judicial review proceedings and it is not possible to provide a detailed summary of the outcomes or advice provided in respect of each files in the form requested.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [76794]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's legal costs for the first six months of calendar year 2011 totalled £736,438.83. These all related to costs paid to external advisers, the Department has no internal legal function.

South Africa: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse of training by the Care Quality Commission of 10 inspectors from South Africa has been; and if he will make a statement. [76199]

Mr O'Brien: The improvement of the quality of health care is one of the key priorities of the Government of South Africa. As part of its support to achieving this improvement, the Department for International Development is facilitating learning between the UK Care Quality Commission (CQC) and counterparts in South Africa. South African inspectors have been invited to join the CQC inspector orientation training programme at a total cost of £57,860 for all 10 South African inspectors. These costs will be met by DFID and are inclusive of flights; accommodation and all other expenses. There are no cost implications for the CQC or the Department of Health. This represents good value for money in that CQC is a global lead in this area and will not in this case be charging any fees. This is a good example of how UK expertise can benefit partner Governments.

South Sudan: Commonwealth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on South Sudan joining the Commonwealth. [77086]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I fully support South Sudan's application to join the Commonwealth. If possible, we would like to see it join by 2013, as long as it meets the relevant criteria, especially, those relating to the core values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Ultimately it will be for all member states to agree on whether to admit South Sudan to the Commonwealth.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

4G Mobile Technology

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much he expects to raise from the auctioning of spectrum for 4G mobile technology; and if he will make a statement. [76916]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no estimate of potential receipts from the spectrum auction.

Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what arrangements his Department has put in place for paying expenses of experts and external advisers to enable them to attend meetings in London. [77172]

John Penrose: In some cases members of expert groups agree to participate on the basis that they are not remunerated and any expenses related to their activities must be met by the individuals or organisations themselves.

Non-departmental staff are entitled to claim for travel and subsistence at the same rates that apply for departmental staff. Any claim must comply with the Department's travel and subsistence rules and all claims for incidental expenses must comply with Government accounting rules.

Arts: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on simplifying access to finance for *(a)* artists, *(b)* video game organisations and *(c)* musicians. [77205]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1051W.

Betting Shops

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many operating licences have been issued by the Gambling Commission for betting shops in each local authority area. [77305]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Gambling Commission publishes data annually about the total number of betting operator licences it has issued at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-about_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

However, this information is not broken down by local authority area.

Licensing authorities are responsible for issuing premises licences for individual betting shops and will therefore hold records of the number of such licences issued.

Charities

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with the charity operating the Waverley; what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefits of keeping the paddle steamer in operation; and if he will make a statement. [77092]

John Penrose *[holding answer 28 October 2011]:* The paddle steamer Waverley is the largest operational vessel in the UK's National Historic Fleet, and is of pre-eminent national and regional significance.

National Historic Ships, a body funded by this Department which has a UK-wide remit and acts as official adviser to the UK Governments on historic vessels, has offered advice and support to the Paddle Steamer Waverley Trust. The Director attended a meeting on 12 August 2011 with the Chairman and members of the Waverley Steam Navigation Co. Ltd to discuss what can be done through business planning development and fundraising to keep Waverly in service. In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund, which also has a UK-wide remit, has awarded two grants (£2,689,000 in 1996-97 and £3,028,000 in 2001-02) in recognition of the vessel's heritage value.

Although the Waverley tours many parts of the UK, it is owned by an independent charitable trust based in Scotland and thus is also related to Scottish Ministers' responsibilities.

Communications Bill

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to introduce his proposed communications Bill. [R] [76761]

Mr Vaizey: A Green Paper will be published shortly after Christmas. The public consultation that follows will inform a draft communications Bill to be produced by mid-2013. Our aim is to complete the legislative process by the end of this Parliament. The timetable is designed to ensure that there is sufficient time to have a full and open dialogue about the complex issues involved and reflects the importance of this sector to the UK.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the regional and national representation is of his Department's external group on the drafting of the communications Bill. [77171]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), published an open letter in May, setting key questions to stakeholders and inviting input to the drafting of the Green Paper. The letter itself was cleared via write-around to all other Government Departments. The open letter elicited over 160 replies—including individual responses from all the devolved Administrations.

The Department is hosting a meeting with representatives from all other Departments, including all the devolved Administrations, in November, and policy officials are maintaining an ongoing, open dialogue with devolved Administrations on specific issues as appropriate.

Cultural Education Review

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the independent review of cultural education. [77204]

Mr Vaizey: This Department, along with the Department for Education, will publish Darren Henley's review of cultural education later this year.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77489]

John Penrose: This Department has no full-time equivalent staff employed on consultancy contracts.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77610]

John Penrose: This Department has received no applications from employees to run services for which it is directly responsible since May 2010.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [76593]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is currently subject to a two-year pay freeze which was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), in June 2010. Under the terms of the pay freeze, only employees who earn less than £21,000 are entitled to receive a payment of at least £250. In 2010, payments were made to 17 employees with an average payment of £355.

In 2011, payments have been made to nine employees with an average payment of £360.

43 staff within the Department were entitled to contractual pay increases as a result of terms agreed in other Government Departments. These employees received an average of £926.45.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [76596]

John Penrose: The number of civil servants in this Department who earned more than £65,000, £95,000, £140,000 and £175,000 in the last financial year is set out in the following table:

Salary	*Number of civil servants in the year 2010-11*	*Number currently (September) 2011*
More than £65,000	29	28
More than £95,000	8	6
More than £140,000	3	3
More than £175,000	2	2

We do not hold this information for our arm's length bodies. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by the hon. Gentleman and to write to him direct. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77363]

John Penrose: Details of speeches given by Ministers in the Department to various organisations are published on our website at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/ministers_speeches/default.aspx

Ministers and senior officials are sometimes required to give short speeches at other events but these details are not recorded centrally.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of small businesses on digital switchover. [75946]

Mr Vaizey: Representatives from electronics retailers and manufacturers are invited quarterly to discuss the digital TV switchover programme and review progress with me, as the Minister responsible for TV switchover. The most recent meeting was on 22 September 2011. Digital UK also engages with small business groups on a regular basis.

Digital Consumer Expert Group

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the regional composition is of his Department's digital consumer expert group. [77573]

Mr Vaizey: The consumer expert group (CEG) currently includes only organisation with national interests, such as the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Which? and the Rural Communities Council. Organisations with specific regional interests could be members subject to the agreement of the CEG.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how members of his Department's digital consumer expert group were recruited; how such members are remunerated; and what expenses may be claimed by such members. [77574]

Mr Vaizey: In 2003 the Government invited organisations with a very obvious interest in broadcasting and consumer protection to participate in the consumer expert group (CEG). Since then organisations have been welcomed to join the consumer expert group, subject to the agreement of the group itself and demonstrating a genuine interest in the issues which the CEG is considering.

Members of the consumer expert group are not remunerated and any expenses related to CEG activities must be meet by the individuals or organisations themselves.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what statutory instruments he plans to lay before the House under the provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2010; and when he expects to lay each such instrument before the House. [77403]

Mr Vaizey: The Government will be submitting two statutory instruments to the House over the coming period to take forward the online infringement of copyright provisions within the Digital Economy Act 2010. The first, which is currently under consideration under the terms of the technical standards directive, sets out the way in which the costs of the provisions will be shared by industry. The second will be an order setting out the initial obligations code. We would expect the instruments to be laid before both Houses in the first quarter of 2012.

Equiniti

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department expects to raise from the resale by Equiniti of surrendered equipment as part of the programme making and special events funding scheme. [76917]

Mr Vaizey: The Department will not raise any funds from the resale of this equipment as it is covered by a contract between Ofcom and Equiniti. Ofcom has not made any assessment of how much revenue the resale of equipment under the scheme will realise. The contract between Ofcom and Equiniti contains a gain share clause whereby 54% of the resale value is returned to HM Treasury. Equiniti must cover its own cost of sales from its share of the resale value.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the contract between Ofcom and Equiniti on the programme making and special events funding scheme was signed. [77137]

Mr Vaizey: The contract between Ofcom and Equiniti on the programme making and special events funding scheme was signed on 25 June 2010.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many times his Department has sought advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76363]

John Penrose: The Department does not record the number of times the legal team has sought advice from external counsel.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [76399]

John Penrose: The Department's expenditure on legal advice and instructing counsel for the years in question is set out in the following table.

We are unable to provide the information in the manner in which my hon. Friend has requested because we record costs by financial year. Also, we do not separately record costs incurred instructing counsel, and they are not readily identifiable from overall external legal costs expenditure.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2011-12	958,691
2010-11	1,706,527
2009-10	2,536,095
2008-09	2,499,831
2007-08	2,262,809
2006-07	2,540,994

The Department does not record centrally the number of times it has been taken to court, the number of decisions taken by the Department that were subject to a judicial review and the outcome of each case.

Equiniti

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what measures are in place to ensure that only licensed users are permitted to buy surrendered programme making and special events equipment from Equiniti; and if he will make a statement. [76918]

Mr Vaizey: A procedure is in place whereby Equiniti checks with JFMC, which issues wireless telegraphy licences for programme making and special events on behalf of Ofcom, whether the potential purchaser holds a current channel 69 licence. Equiniti will only sell surrendered equipment where this is the case.

Mobile Phones

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what procurement process will be applied when implementing the decision to extend mobile coverage to 99% of the population. [77402]

Mr Vaizey: The procurement strategy for extending mobile coverage is one of a number of tasks that are now being taken forward by my officials over the coming weeks. Before any decisions are taken on a procurement process, I would expect discussions to take place on possible options with a range of interested organisations.

Museums and Galleries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* museums, *(b)* galleries and *(c)* heritage sites he has visited in an official capacity in each region since May 2010. [77203]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1162W, providing the details of visits in the last 12 months.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people have made recent representations to him regarding the future of the Captain Cook Birthplace museum in Marton, Middlesbrough. [77259]

Mr Vaizey: To date, our records show that the Department has received and responded to 362 representations regarding the future of the Captain Cook Birthplace museum in Marton, Middlesbrough. The museum is the responsibility of the local authority, in this case Middlesbrough council, which must decide on how best to fund and deliver its cultural services. It is not appropriate for the Department to prescribe how it does so.

Ofcom

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what powers Ofcom has to prevent the re-selling of equipment surrendered as part of the programme making and special events funding scheme back into the UK market; and if he will make a statement. [76919]

Mr Vaizey: The contract with Equiniti required that Ofcom must approve any disposal proposal (including resale) made by Equiniti of surrendered equipment. The proposal for disposal has been approved and requires that Equiniti only sells to licensed users and imposes a requirement on purchasers to modify, destroy or return the equipment to Equiniti by the time licensed (and therefore lawful) use of channel 69 finishes at the end of 2012. If a potential purchaser is not licensed or does not agree to modify, destroy or return the equipment to Equiniti, then the sale cannot proceed. Purchasers are required to confirm in writing to Equiniti that they have either modified the equipment to operate on channel 38 or channel 70, disposed of the equipment under the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations or returned it to Equiniti. Ofcom can request that purchasers provide documentary evidence of disposal or modification (and to make equipment available for inspection on request in the case of modification).

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 540W, on Ofcom, if he will place in the Library a copy of the invitation to tender produced by Ofcom inviting contractors to bid for the programme making and special events funding scheme. [77290]

Mr Vaizey: We understand that Ofcom intends to publish the information to tender document on its website.

Public Libraries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to set *(a)* the Local Government Group and *(b)* Arts Council England targets for the roll-out of the ideas and best practice arising from the Future Libraries programme. [77436]

Mr Vaizey: In line with the Local Government Association's (LGA's) Taking the Lead approach to sector-led improvement, which the Government support, Arts Council England (ACE) and the LGA have no intention of imposing performance targets on local authorities.

Instead, ideas and best practice from the Future Libraries programme have been shared with local authorities throughout the life of the programme to inspire improvement across the sector. I wrote to all authorities in February enclosing a short paper outlining a number of lessons learnt from the Future Libraries programme, together with additional examples of current good practice from a range of local authorities.

The Local Government Group published a final report on the programme in August. It set out the emerging models for delivery of public library services, namely:

Through co-location or new, non-traditional outlets and service points;

Using external providers—trusts and charitable companies, other councils or through the private sector;

Sharing services with other councils;

Empowering communities to do things their own way.

ACE will launch the libraries development initiative next month with the aim of building on the Future Libraries programme.

Radio Frequencies

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to ensure that channel 69 is clear of programme making and special events use after September 2012. [77134]

Mr Vaizey: We understand from Ofcom that there are no Wireless Telegraphy Act licences in existence or planned to be issued which entitle licensees to make use of channel 69 for programme making and special events after September 2012 and, therefore, that the channel in question will be clear at that point. The Government provided funding for a scheme to compensate pre-existing channel 69 users who previously had an expectation of continued use after 2012, which has been making payments since March 2011 and will continue to do so in 2012.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much revenue he expects to accrue to the Exchequer from the resale of surrendered equipment as part of the programme making and special events funding scheme; and if he will make a statement. [77135]

Mr Vaizey: We have not made any assessment of how much revenue the resale of equipment under the scheme will realise.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to ensure that equipment surrendered under the programme making and special events funding scheme cannot use channel 69 after the channel has been cleared in October 2012; and if he will make a statement. [77136]

Mr Vaizey: The contract between Ofcom and Equiniti requires destruction of equipment in accordance with environmental regulations, return or modification for lawful use. Further, there is a requirement that any purchaser of surrendered equipment agrees to take the equipment out of use by the time licensed (and therefore lawful) use of channel 69 expires and confirm in writing to Equiniti that they have either modified the equipment to operate on Channel 38 or Channel 70, disposed of the Equipment under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations or returned it to Equiniti. Ofcom can request purchasers provide documentary evidence of disposal or modification (and to make equipment available for inspection on request in the case of modification). Any use of programme making and special events equipment in Channel 69 (re-sold or otherwise) after the deadline will be unlawful and Ofcom has powers under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to take enforcement action against unlawful use of spectrum.

Rugby: Tourism

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's tourism plan is for the *(a)* 2013 Rugby League World Cup, *(b)* 2015 Rugby Union World Cup and *(c)* 2014 Commonwealth Games. [77434]

John Penrose: VisitBritain has already launched a four-year international marketing campaign ("You're Invited"), aimed at core and emerging markets, based on investment of almost £50 million from its funds, and additional support from the private sector, toward generating a £100 million marketing fund. Alongside this, VisitEngland will take forward a major domestic tourism campaign to promote domestic destinations, taking advantage of the 'staycation' effect and revitalising our domestic offer.

VisitBritain and VisitEngland will work with the tourism industry and the tourist boards of the devolved nations, as appropriate, to maximise the economic opportunities offered by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, the 2013 Rugby World Cup, the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup, and the 2014 Commonwealth games.

Tourism

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will provide support to help preserve the paddle steamer Waverley as a tourist attraction. [76728]

John Penrose: The paddle steamer (PS) Waverley is the largest operational vessel in the National Historic Fleet and as such is distinguished as being of pre-eminent national or regional significance.

National Historic Ships, a body funded by this Department as the official adviser to the UK Government on historic vessels, has been supporting the PS Waverley Trust by offering support and advice on business planning, fundraising and accessing available grants. In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded PS Waverley £5,717,000 for two major restoration projects (£2,689,000 in 1996-97 and £3,028,000 in 2001-02), and has also met with the PS Waverley Trust to offer advice on accessing a small grants programme and support for business planning.

Beyond this, the vessel is owned by an independent charitable trust based in Scotland and as such would fall under the remit of Scottish Ministers.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on supporting regional tourism agencies as part of the growth review. [77663]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), meets regularly with destination management organisations and industry bodies. Over the next four years VisitBritain will be running a major international marketing campaign, aimed at core and emerging markets, based on investment of almost £50 million from their funds, and additional support from the private sector, toward generating a £100 million marketing fund. This will showcase Britain to the world and aims to attract 4 million extra visitors, spending £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with the Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is co-ordinated through the National Strategic Framework for Tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector. This will include a four-year domestic tourism campaign to promote domestic destinations, taking advantage of the 'staycation' effect and revitalising our domestic offer, generating up to £500 million in additional visitor spend and 5.3 million additional overnights.

Tourism policy seeks to help improve the sector's productivity and competitiveness, in particular, to address the burden of regulation affecting the industry. The Government's Red Tape Challenge focused on the hospitality sector in May, inviting the industry and the public to identify regulations holding back the industry and stifling growth. Alongside this, the Government have set up an industry task force, led by senior industry figures, which is working on identifying rules, regulations and inspections impeding the sector, and which might be cut, modified or abolished.

The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 November 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77417]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has purchased three assets with a value of £250,000 or more since May 2010:

No.	*Asset*	*Purpose*
1	Firelink equipment for east region	This piece of equipment was purchased from ASL Ltd. It is a resilient telecommunications interface to enable voice and data transmissions across the Fire and Rescue Service and other blue light partners. The equipment remains in place and it is programmed to be commissioned for use as part of a bid for a forthcoming resilience and efficiency grant by a group of Fire and Rescue Services in the east/ south east of England.
2	Enhancement (redesign) of the planning portal	Capitalised consultancy costs arose for the redesign of the planning portal. The portal 2.0 project allowed users to customise/personalise the portal to their requirements.
3	New standby generator for fire and life safety systems	To provide back-up power supply to life safety and fire safety systems in the event of a power failure, and in line with regulatory requirements.

Data Protection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many official ministerial papers were recorded as not returned to his Department or otherwise unaccounted for in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76810]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* No Cabinet Committee papers or minutes for this period are unaccounted for.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77416]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010 the following departmental items have been lost.

Item	*Lost*
Computers	1
Mobile Phones	0
BlackBerry	2
Other IT equipment	2

All departmental IT is fully security encrypted.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73118]

Robert Neill: Departmental finance records show that £1,737 was spent on office furniture (e.g. desks, chairs, cabinets, staff lockers) in the last 12 months (ending 30 September 2011).

Comparative figures are not readily accessible for previous years, although spending was significantly higher, as illustrated by the last Administration spending £134,503 in 2009-10 just on luxury red sofas by the Parisian designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish on his Department's website data covering ministerial overseas travel, meetings, gifts received and ministerial hospitality since the end of March 2011. [77295]

Robert Neill: In line with other Government Departments, the data for the period from April to June 2011 will be published shortly.

Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77869]

Robert Neill: Apart from security passes issued to staff and contractors the only passes issued are those to visitors. The Department deletes the record of daily visitor passes issued once the visit has taken place, in line with data protection provisions.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on recycling rates of bi-weekly collection of refuse. [76972]

Robert Neill: My Department has not undertaken any specific assessment on this issue. Ministers do not believe that it is necessary to have fortnightly rubbish collections to try to increase recycling.

The cuts to frontline rubbish services encouraged by the last Administration were a lazy option. We believe that more joint working, better procurement, positive incentives and new technology are better ways of improving value for money, while maintaining regular and comprehensive services for local residents.

Our Weekly Collections Support Scheme initiative will help councils deliver better weekly collections, and in the process make it easier for families to go green and improve amenity and the local environment.

Empty Property

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department expects to publish its consultation on an empty homes premium. [73239]

Grant Shapps: The Department intends to publish its consultation on an empty homes premium shortly. A copy of the consultation has been deposited in the Library of the House. It invites views on the idea of an empty homes premium.

Housing: Fire Prevention

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from charities on fire safety assessments in *(a)* local authority owned residential property and *(b)* privately rented property. [78038]

Robert Neill: We have received no representations from charities in respect of fire safety assessments in local authority-owned residential property or privately rented property.

Inform: Cost-effectiveness

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how often his Department assesses the work of Inform for the purposes of ensuring value for money for the funding it provides. [77542]

Andrew Stunell: Whenever any external organisation applies to my Department for financial support, an initial assessment is carried out of the value for money of its proposals. All bodies which go on to receive financial support are continually assessed under the appropriate framework for the management of public finances.

Local Government Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on the funding settlement for local authorities for 2012-13. [77659]

Robert Neill: Ministers regularly discuss local government finance settlements with interested parties. We will be consulting on our proposals for the provisional local government finance settlement for 2012-13 in due course. As part of the current two-year settlement provisional figures for 2012-13 are available on our website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm#set1213

Organised Crime: Departmental Co-ordination

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055, on public disorder, what meetings he and his Ministers have had with Home Office Ministers to assist in compiling the report to the House on gang culture. [77832]

Grant Shapps: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Home Office to discuss a range of matters.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055, on public disorder, what meetings his officials have had with the Home Office to assist in compiling the report to the House on gang culture. [77835]

Grant Shapps: Officials within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Home Office to discuss a range of matters.

Piers: Redcar and Cleveland

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have made representations to him about securing funding for an additional pier in Redcar and Cleveland. [77189]

Robert Neill: My Department has received no representations from individuals or organisations about the funding of a new pier in Redcar and Cleveland.

Urban Areas: Government Assistance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has disbursed through the High Street Support Scheme since the scheme's establishment; and how many businesses have received support. [77004]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 21 October 2011]*: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my Department's press notice of 27 October 2011. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

WALES

Children: Poverty

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate she has made of the number of children in Wales living in poverty. [76989]

Mr David Jones: Latest figures derived from the Households Below Average Income series of surveys for the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 show that the proportion of children living in relative poverty in Wales stands at 25%.

The Government are firmly committed to the goal of ending child poverty in Wales and across the United Kingdom by 2020. The UK's first Child Poverty Strategy

"A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" sets out a new approach to tackling poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020. The strategy is clear that poverty is about far more than income.

The strategy demonstrates the Government's commitment to lifting people out not only of income poverty, but poverty of aspiration and poverty of outcomes. The strategy established a new suite of child poverty indicators against which progress will be monitored. These new indicators, in addition to those in the Child Poverty Act 2010, continue to recognise the importance of income, but also capture the broader understanding of both the causes and consequences of poverty.

We must also recognise that the Welsh Government have responsibility for a number of factors that affect child poverty and it is important that their strategy dovetails with ours, especially given that Wales continues to show levels of child poverty well above the UK average.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she receives any external funding for *(a)* her ministerial office and *(b)* her advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77707]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office receives no external funding.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had on promoting social enterprises in the area for which her Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77326]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no executive responsibility for service provision that social enterprises could undertake.

However, the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) and I are aware of the positive impact social enterprise—an aspect of the big society vision—can have in communities and we are committed to promoting and encouraging it in Wales. Our recent big society seminar, which examined how all sectors could get involved in activity to benefit the community, was attended by several representatives of the social enterprise sector. In addition, I have visited several social enterprises since May 2010, including the very successful Crest co-operative in Llandudno and the Cwm Trannon community co-operative at Trefeglwys.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77712]

Mr Paterson: No.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77379]

Mr Swire: Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and I have attended a great many events and functions organised by a wide range of organisations across Northern Ireland. We have spoken at a number of these events either informally or to a formal text which would routinely be published on the departmental website. The level of detail the hon. Member requires can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency (UKBA) flights to Sri Lanka there have been in each month since May 2010; how many failed Tamil asylum seekers were on each flight; how many are still in contact with UKBA or other Government representatives; and if she will make a statement. [77340]

Damian Green: Where a person is found not to be in need of international protection and they have no other lawful basis to remain in the UK, we expect them to leave the country. We would prefer such people leave voluntarily and we provide a number of comprehensive schemes to assist them with doing so, but if they fail to leave, we will enforce their departure.

Most people whose removal is being enforced leave on scheduled flights, but in the case of Sri Lanka, the UK Border Agency has also chartered two flights, one in June 2011 returning 26 people and a second in September 2011 returning 50. These were Sri Lankan nationals; the UK Border Agency only keeps records of nationality rather than ethnicity.

We monitor the conditions in countries across the world closely and only seek to return people where it is safe to do so and it would not put the UK in breach of its international obligations. The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individual subjects once they are removed from the UK, given that they have been found not to be in need of international protection. However, in the case of Sri Lanka, we currently provide those being returned with the contact details of the high commission in Colombo.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases concern asylum seekers who are not *(a)* awaiting prosecution, *(b)* awaiting removal and *(c)* subject to ongoing litigation in Ashton-under-Lyne constituency. [77392]

Damian Green: There are 11 asylum seekers in Ashton-under-Lyne who do not meet any of the criteria under *(a)*, *(b)* or *(c)* in the question. These data are sourced from a local management team and should be treated as provisional.

Civil Disorder

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on civil disorder, when she expects information on the number of claims received from businesses under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 to be available. [77987]

Nick Herbert: Under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886, affected police authorities are responsible for assessing all claims for compensation made to them by both businesses and households. They then pay such compensation as they see fit. Police authorities are not required to pass on information on the number of claims received from either businesses or households to the Home Office. However, this may be submitted as part of any application for Home Office support to meet the costs incurred by the authority. We have not yet received any final formal special grant applications relating to the Riot (Damages) Act costs.

Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77915]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in her Department; [77916]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77917]

Damian Green: The Home Office undertakes national security vetting clearances in line with the guidance published on the Cabinet Office website. It is not appropriate to confirm which posts require vetting and at what level as it would be highlight who may have access to sensitive or classified material.

The Cabinet Office publishes on a quarterly basis the names of all special advisers.

Since 2010 Yasmin Diamond has held the post of director of communications. Simon Wren and Andy Tighe have held the post of head of news. The Home Office does not have a 'deputy head of communications'.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter-terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in her Department. [77918]

Damian Green: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services (FCOS) currently undertake all (CTC, SC and DV) national security vetting checks on behalf of the Home Office.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by her Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77714]

Damian Green: As of 30 September 2011, the Department had allocated £9,015,000 of funding to helplines operated by the Department in 2011-12. The following table summarises the amount allocated to, the purpose of and the number of calls logged at each of the different helplines.

			Number of calls received[2]				
Helpline	*Purpose of helpline*	*2011-12 full year budget*[1] *(£000)*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*March to-September 2011*
UKBA							
Immigration Enquiry Bureau —Croydon Contact Centre	Provides information about requirements regarding permission to stay and settle in the United Kingdom for those subject to immigration control. This Contact Centre also offers a Public Enquiry Office (PEO) appointment booking service for customers who have been unable to book an appointment online.	2,436	3,083,000	4,948,000	4,385,000	1,598,000	663,000

			Number of calls received[2]				
Helpline	*Purpose of helpline*	*2011-12 full year budget[1] (£000)*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*March to-September 2011*
The Sponsorship and Employers Helpline—Sheffield Contact Centre	Provides information for employers and education providers about sponsorship under the points based system, advice to employers about preventing illegal working and an email service to employers who want to verify the entitlement to work for people awaiting the outcome of an application. The Contact Centre also provides information about Bulgarian and Romanian work permits and accession worker cards.	1,176	834,000	1,290,000	728,000	573,000	198,000
The Nationality Contact Centre—Liverpool Contact Centre	Provides information about British citizenship. The Contact Centre also answers general inquiries from supported asylum seekers in relation to their weekly cash support, accommodation or emergency cash payments.	736	938,000	1,053,000	1,593,000	1,092,000	335,000
Total 2011-12 UKBA funding		4,348					
IPS							
General Register Office—first point of contact	The General Register Office Advice Line provides advice in respect of birth, marriage and death registrations and certificate issues; services are provided by Identity and Passport Service staff.	2,100	[3]—	234,000	227,000	214,000	n/a
The Customer Enquiry Centres (CECs)	Customer Enquiry service provided by Identity and Passport Service staff.	1,800	3,814,000	3,331,000	3,148,000	2,799,000	n/a
Total 2011-12 IPS funding		3,900					
NFA							
Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre	Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre run by the National Fraud Authority, operates a fraud reporting telephone line as part of its service to collect fraud reports on behalf of the police.	767	[4]—	[4]—	1,000	45,000	85,000
Total 2011-12 NFA funding		767					
Total Home Office funding		9,015					

n/a = not available

[1] At 30 September 2011

[2] Rounded to nearest thousand

[3] GRO did not become part of IPS until 2008-09

[4] Helpline was not set up until October 2009

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 41W, on deportation: offenders, how long the 10 longest cases were where a deportation order was issued to a foreign national offender and that offender remains in the UK. [77424]

Damian Green: We seek to remove all foreign criminals who have committed a serious crime in the UK, prior to their release from prison. In order to achieve this, we have made considerable improvements to the way we deport foreign national offenders. By considering criminal cases at an earlier stage, we have increased the number of offenders that are moved directly from criminal detention out of the country.

A deportation order may be served on the offender at the start of their sentence; they will not be deported until the end of their prison term.

The following table sets out the 10 longest cases where a deportation order has been issued to a foreign national offender and that offender remains in the UK:

Date deportation order served	*Length in years from service of the deportation order*	*Reason for delay in deportation*
2 August 1991	20	Currently serving life sentence
10 November 1992	19	Currently serving life sentence
30 May 1995	16	Absconded
17 February 1998	13	Outstanding HR claim
20 March 2001	10	Currently serving life sentence
18 April 2002	9	Currently serving life sentence
8 November 2002	8	Bailed awaiting documentation
20 November 2002	8	Outstanding HR claim
6 May 2003	8	Outstanding HR claim
9 December 2003	7	Absconded

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 41W, on deportation: offenders, in *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of cases a foreign offender has (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully appealed a deportation order. [77425]

Damian Green: Between 1 August 2010 and 1 September 2011, 1,598 foreign national offenders appealed their deportation order. 426 (26%) were allowed, 754 (47%) were dismissed and 418 (26%) were either withdrawn, abandoned, struck out or have yet to be heard.

Diplomatic Immunity: Training

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is provided to police officers on dealing with cases where a suspect may have diplomatic immunity. [75640]

Nick Herbert: Training for diplomatic immunity is covered within the Initial Police Learning and Development programme (IPLDP) for police constables, police community support officers and special constables. The IPLDP modules are mandatory to all forces and are delivered within the two year probationary period.

Further optional modules are also available for those forces that are more likely to use this legislation.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases interim electronic data on the National DNA Database and in databases held by forensic science services has been destroyed following an exceptional case decision; and if she will make a statement. [71607]

James Brokenshire: Because of the particular facts in one case, the interim data relating to that individual were destroyed.

Interim data are held on the forensic suppliers' systems but not on the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

Further work is underway to break any link between interim data created during the process of generating a DNA profile and an individual, subject to any requirements of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act (1996). This includes changing forensic supplier identification codes and an independent audit.

The National DNA Database (NDNAD) Unit is also exploring whether it may be possible to change the profiling process so that interim data held by suppliers would no longer be stored in batches, so that they could be destroyed for individual profiles more readily.

Entry Clearances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many migrants holding leave to remain under PBS Tier 1 Post-Study Work and predecessors have been granted an extension of stay by switching into *(a)* other PBS Tier 1 categories, *(b)* PBS Tier 2 and *(c)* PBS Tier 4 in each quarter from the first quarter of 2009; [77558]

(2) how many family visitors have extended their leave to remain in the UK by switching into the family leave to remain category in each year since 2005. [77559]

Damian Green *[holding answer 31 October2011]:* The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost, as it would require a manual search of individual case files.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier 4 visa holders remained in the UK on the post work study route as of 1 September *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [77619]

Damian Green: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost, as it would require a manual search of individual case files.

Gangs

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many gang-related witness intimidation offences have been recorded in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* police force area in each of the last five years; and how many such offences are categorised as (i) detected, (ii) undetected, (iii) live and (iv) victim declines to prosecute; [77822]

(2) how many recorded offences where either the perpetrator or the victim were identified as connected to a gang were categorised as *(a)* detected, *(b)* undetected, *(c)* live and *(d)* victim declined to prosecute in each (i) London borough and (ii) police force area in each of the last five years. [78026]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not available centrally.

Immigrants: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements there are for children of mothers who have been detained for immigration purposes to maintain contact with their mothers while they are in detention. [76665]

Damian Green: The Detention Centre Rules 2001 require that all detained persons are entitled to enjoy family life by way of visits from, or communications with, family members. This requirement applies equally in the case of detained mothers whose children are living in the community or under local authority care.

Other than those necessary in the interests of safety and security, there are very few restrictions placed on the ability of detained persons to maintain outside contacts. All persons detained in immigration removal centres may receive unlimited visits. They may make and receive telephone calls and send and receive as many letters as they wish. Where detained persons do not have the necessary funds to do so, arrangements are in place for them to make telephone calls or send letters free of charge.

Lancashire Constabulary

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Lancashire police on advice given by that police force that the public display of Bible verses was a breach of public order; and whether she plans to meet the Chief Constable of Lancashire police to discuss this matter. [72998]

Nick Herbert: No such discussions have taken place, as decisions on arrests are independent operational matters for the police.

Personation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* her officials have had discussions with the Metropolitan Police on the provision of evidence by police officers in court under a false identity; and if she will make a statement. [77146]

Nick Herbert: Home Office Ministers and officials have not met with the Metropolitan Police to discuss the provision of evidence by police officers in court under a false identity. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is currently reviewing police tactics in this area and we await its report.

Police: Surveillance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been given to police forces on the infiltration of registered political parties by undercover officers. [77038]

James Brokenshire: Police forces may only use the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') to authorise the use of covert techniques if this is necessary for certain human rights compatible purposes such as the prevention of crime, public safety or national security and if it is proportionate to do so. The subjects of such investigations are a matter for the police, but statutory guidance on how best to apply these principles is given in the Home Office produced RIPA code of practice on covert human intelligence sources. Although no specific mention is made of political parties, the human rights purposes and principles apply to the same extent as with any crime, public safety or national security investigation conducted by the police. And the same human rights safeguards of independent overview, inspection and right of redress apply with equal force.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Business

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she proposes that her Department's consultation on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting will take account of *(a)* the Department for Energy and Climate Change's review of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and *(b)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' consultation on the future of corporate narrative reporting. [76651]

Richard Benyon: The Department of Energy and Climate Change's review of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' consultation on narrative reporting are both relevant in considering whether to introduce regulations requiring companies to report greenhouse gas emissions.

Food: Prices

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the contribution of market speculation to food price volatility in 2007-08. [73476]

Mr Paice: The report "The 2007/08 Agricultural Price Spikes: Causes and Policy Implications", published by HMG in January 2010, reviewed various potential mechanisms whereby speculation might have distorted markets. It concluded that there was no conclusive evidence that speculation leads to higher or more volatile prices, although we do know that some factors like export bans, stock levels, energy prices and damaged harvests certainly can put pressure on prices.

On 8 April 2011 the UK and Brazil called on members of the G20 to take action to tackle food price volatility, in the face of food price inflation and long-term food security challenges.

G20 Agriculture Ministers welcomed the steps which Finance Ministers are taking to ensure appropriate and transparent regulation of financial markets.

Slug Pellets

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to protect *(a)* hedgehogs and *(b)* other wildlife from metaldehyde and methiocarb slug pellets. [76750]

Richard Benyon: As plant protection products (pesticides), both metaldehyde and methiocarb slug pellets are controlled under EU pesticides legislation. The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (the Government body responsible for regulating pesticides) carries out checks to ensure the risks that can arise from the use of these products are not unacceptable. This will include an assessment of the toxicity of each product and the ways in which spray operators, the public or environment, including wildlife, are exposed to them.

Controls extend to the use of pesticide products and CRD routinely restricts the way products can be used (for example specifying dose rates, timing and place of application) to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Users are also legally obliged to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, animals and plants. Advice on how this can be done is set out in a statutory "Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products" which, among other things, contains guidance on minimising the exposure of wild birds and mammals to pesticides.

In addition, the Government's Wildlife Incident Investigation scheme (WIIS) investigates the deaths of wildlife where there is strong evidence that pesticide poisoning may be involved. The purpose of the scheme is to monitor pesticide use after authorisation, but where there is evidence of misuse or abuse of pesticides enforcement action may be taken. In England and Wales only ten hedgehog deaths have been reported to the scheme in the last five years, none of which was found to be as a result of poisoning by pesticides. Information on WIIS (including monitoring results) is available on CRD's website at:

www.pesticides.gov.uk

Squirrels: Pest Control

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* published in relation to immuno-contraception as a means of controlling grey squirrels; and what the cost to the public purse of such research has been. [75865]

Richard Benyon: Work on immuno-contraception in grey squirrels by the Forestry Commission's agency Forest Research ended in 2006-07. Field trials failed to produce an immune response that was powerful or long-lasting. Attention has now turned to another compound called DiazaCon which has shown promise as a fertility control agent. 'Proof of concept' enclosure studies between 2007 and 2011 confirmed an effect of DiazaCon on squirrel blood chemistry but the effect on reproduction was inconclusive. Further research is also needed to refine species-specific field delivery systems.

Information on immuno-contraception was last reported in Forest Research's Annual Report and Accounts in 1999-2000.

Results from the recent enclosure studies of the use of DiazaCon were presented at the 8th International Vertebrate Pest Conference in 2011. The proceedings are due to be published in Pest Management Science early in 2012.

The cost of the studies on immuno-contraception totalled £323,000 during the period 2002-07. They were funded by the Forestry Commission, DEFRA, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural England. A total of £282,000 has been spent on studies using DiazaCon from 2007-11 by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many letters she has received on funding for civil society organisations within her Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if she will make a statement. [73983]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has received at least nine letters on funding for civil sector organisations in 2010-11 and four in 2011-12. A comprehensive search for correspondence on these subjects would incur disproportionate cost as records are not held centrally.

Waste: Exports

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to ensure enforcement of the provisions of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive to reduce the amount of illegal waste exported to developing countries. [76122]

Richard Benyon: The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations are primarily focused on ensuring that the producers of WEEE finance its collection, treatment and recovery. The UK environment agencies (the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Northern Ireland Environment Agency) have an active compliance monitoring programme covering the key elements of the WEEE regime. This includes ensuring that management and dealings of WEEE are consistent with wider waste regulations.

More generally, export of waste from the UK falls under the EU Waste Shipments Regulation, supplemented by the UK-wide Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007. The environmental agencies have adopted an intelligence-led approach to illegal exports, including of WEEE, which is delivering results by disrupting the flow of these. This approach is also resulting in enforcement actions against waste criminals.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of producer compliance schemes in reducing illegal waste electrical and electronic equipment exports. [76123]

Richard Benyon: Producer compliance schemes do not have a direct obligation or responsibility placed upon them to reduce the volume of illegal exports. They are, however, required to have systems in place to ensure that all separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) which is financed by them on behalf of their members is properly treated, in line with the best available treatment, recovery and recycling techniques, thereby minimising the risk of illegal exports.

The systems that the schemes have set now allow for most of the WEEE to be properly collected, treated, recycled and recovered, thus diverting supply from illegal exports.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the amount of electronic waste illegally shipped from the UK and dumped in developing countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [76125]

Richard Benyon: The nature of illegal exports, in that perpetrators seek to avoid detection, makes it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the amount of electronic waste illegally shipped from the UK.

An intelligence-led approach allows the Environment Agency (England and Wales), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to identify and disrupt the movement of waste intended for illegal export. However, so far it has not been possible for them to assess the total quantities that may be involved in this illegal trade.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce the amount of electronic waste exported from the UK. [76126]

Richard Benyon: The export of electronic waste from the UK is controlled by the EU Waste Shipments Regulation. Under the regulation, electronic waste may be exported for environmentally sound recovery. However, the export of any hazardous electronic waste to developing countries is prohibited. The competent authorities for the enforcement of the Waste Shipment Regulation in the UK are the Environment Agency in England and Wales, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The competent authorities have adopted an intelligence-led approach to deal with illegal exports of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). This is delivering results by disrupting the flow of illegally exported WEEE, and is also resulting in enforcement actions against waste criminals.

Alongside the deterrent effect of its enforcement work, the Environment Agency recognises that cutting off the supply of WEEE to illegal operators at source is a key activity. It is working with waste producers and partner organisations in an effort to ensure that electronic scrap only enters recycling and reprocessing routes operated in accordance with the WEEE and other environmental regulations.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking with other EU and foreign Governments to reduce illegal exports of electronic waste. [76127]

Richard Benyon: The UK is a party to the Basel convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the only global legal instrument on this issue. Our substantial input has helped the convention to agree a global guidance document on the management of computing equipment as part of the Partnership for Action on computer equipment, a multi-stakeholder partnership under the Basel convention. The convention is also working on a wider document to assist with the global policing of the transboundary movements of electronic waste.

The convention is implemented in the EU through the Waste Shipments Regulation, which is supplemented in the UK by the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007. Under these regulations it is a serious criminal offence to export waste illegally, with the possibility of significant penalties for those convicted.

Tackling the illegal export of electronic waste is also a Key feature of the work being done by numerous EU and International bodies such as the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, Interpol, Europol and the United Nations Environment programme. The UK competent authorities (the Environment Agency for England and Wales, the Scottish Environment Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) actively participate in numerous programmes and projects which carry out joint intelligence-led inspections and investigations, allow cross-border multi-agency sharing of intelligence, techniques and skills and improve business awareness of the controls which apply to the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Whales: Japan

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the International Fund For Animal Welfare on the killing of whales by Icelandic and Japanese boats. [76124]

Richard Benyon: I met representatives from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to discuss whaling in July. An IFAW representative also formed part of the UK delegation I led to this year's annual International Whaling Commission meeting.

DEFRA officials regularly meet members of the Wildlife and Countryside LINK whale working group and the whalewatch coalition, which together comprise the principal anti-whaling nongovernmental organisations in the UK. The next meeting is scheduled for November.

Whales: Pollution

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 606W, on chemicals, what assessment her Department has made of the effects of flame-retardant chemicals on the health of killer whales in UK waters. [76416]

Richard Benyon: The collaborative UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation programme (CSIP), aims, among other things, to undertake surveillance on the incidence of exposure to environmental pollutants in stranded cetaceans.

Very few killer whales strand around the UK; only 23 strandings have been recorded out of nearly 10,500 cetacean strandings in the UK since 1990. Of these, six have been examined at post-mortem. As such, there is insufficient data to make an adequate assessment of the possible effects polybrominated flame retardants (PBDEs) and other pollutants have on the heath of the killer whale population.

However, given that PBDE levels are now very low in porpoises, the risk to killer whales is likely to be quite small and declining as PBDE levels continue to drop in the marine environment.

Other brominated flame retardant compounds, such as hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBP-A), have also been detected and monitored. Levels of these chemicals are still much lower than for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The 2010 report of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea working group on marine mammal ecology concludes that PCBs, despite being banned for 30 years in Europe, remain the biggest chemical risk to marine top predators such as killer whales and inshore bottlenose dolphins in the North East Atlantic region rather than PBDEs or other brominated flame retardants.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77381]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not bought any assets with a value of £250,000 or more since May 2010.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77497]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. However, I can confirm that no staff working within the Scotland Office are employed on consultancy contracts.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77380]

David Mundell: Since May 2010, two BlackBerrys have been lost from the Scotland Office. Security features on these ensured that no information could be obtained from them. No other computers, mobile telephones or other IT equipment have been recorded as lost in that time.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77706]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office receives no external funding for ministerial offices or advisers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77383]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I regularly attend and give speeches at the events of a wide range of organisations. Further information on ministerial meetings and events is published quarterly at:

www.data.gov.uk

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77600]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office is not directly responsible for running any services. Therefore, no applications have been received from Scotland Office staff.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had on promoting social enterprises in the area for which his Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77382]

David Mundell: Ministers and officials frequently engage with social enterprises and organisations representing them.

Voting Rights

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the eligibility of Scottish people resident in the other parts of the UK to vote in any future independence referendum in Scotland. [77547]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are having discussions with the Scottish Government on their plans for a referendum on Scottish independence.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what assets with a value of £250,000 or more the Law Officers' Departments have bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77419]

The Solicitor-General: Since May 2010, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has bought the following assets with a value of £250,000 or more.

Asset description	*Asset purpose*	*Cost (£)*
Furniture for new HQ site	Achieve government space standards and reduce per head accommodation costs	1,091,858
Security doors and equipment at new HQ site	To meet recommended security standards at new HQ site	336,218
CCTV, alarm system and security room console at new HQ site	To meet recommended security standards at new HQ site	351,899
Video conferencing equipment and installation at 13 sites	To facilitate video conferencing and reduce the cost of travel to meetings	545,913

New furniture was bought as part of a project to relocate CPS staff from two London buildings into a new site. The new furniture has enabled the CPS to introduce flexible working arrangements, reduce workstation and floor space allocations and reduce accommodation costs by an estimated £5.2 million per annum.

The installation of new video conferencing systems at 13 CPS sites will reduce the need for staff to travel to meetings, cutting travel, hotel and subsistence costs. It is forecast that the initial investment in this equipment will be repaid and savings of at least £242,000 achieved by 2014-15.

Since May 2010 TSol has implemented three major projects where the aggregate cost of all capital elements will exceed £250,000.

These projects are:

Case Management System

The Case Management System (CMS) is a computerised system that holds the relevant particulars for a case, helps the case officer keep track of tasks and diary dates, enables them to create and store correspondence, record time and maintain a record of the case. It has been designed to allow the Litigation Group to handle increased case loads with the same resources. It provides better quality information and relieves case workers of much of the routine business of case management, releasing them to concentrate on providing legal support and service to our clients.

Disaster Recovery site

A new disaster recovery site became operational in December 2010, creating a facility for TSol to switch to quickly in the event that its main site is inaccessible.

Legal Information Online Network project

The replacement of the on-line legal information service provided to the Government Legal Service and other subscribers. The Efficiency Reform Group (ERG) and HM Treasury have approved the cost of the project which will allow the Government Legal Service (GLS) to make significant efficiency savings over the next few years.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has not made any individual payments for assets over the value of £250,000 since May 2010. However, as part of the implementation of its IT system, one intangible asset (IT software) has been implemented since May 2010. This intangible asset was being developed from June 2009 to March 2011. At the point at which the development work was completed and treated as implemented its value was transferred to the SFO asset register in accordance with governmental accountancy guidelines.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have not recorded any expenditure on individual assets to the value of £250,000 or above since May 2010.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Law Officers' Departments have lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77418]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

IT equipment reported lost between May 2010 to September 2011

Department	*Laptops*	*Mobile phones*	*BlackBerrys*	*Other*
Serious Fraud Office	1	2	2	2
Treasury Solicitor's Department	3	0	0	4
Crown Prosecution Service	0	11	9	0
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	0	0	0	0
Attorney-General's Office	0	0	1	0

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been accommodated in Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties in England and Wales since the inception of the scheme; [76890]

(2) how many people have been accommodated in Llanelli constituency by the Bail Accommodation and Support Service since premises in Llanelli were first acquired; [76891]

(3) how many people from outside Llanelli constituency have been accommodated in Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties in Llanelli constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; [76892]

(4) how many residents in Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties have been removed due to breach of *(a)* bail, *(b)* home detention curfew and *(c)* tenancy conditions in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Llanelli constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [76893]

Mr Blunt: 8,558 people have been accommodated by the Bail Accommodation and Support Service between the start of the service on 18 June 2007 and 24 October 2011.

23 people have been accommodated by the Bail Accommodation and Support Service in Llanelli constituency.

Of the 23 people who have been accommodated in Llanelli, all were from the south Wales area but none listed their home town as Llanelli. The courts will sometimes require people to be located away from their home area and this is a reciprocal benefit. Seven people from Llanelli have been referred to the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, six were unsuccessful in their bail or HDC application and one was located to another town.

Civil Disorder

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055, on public disorder, what meetings he and his Ministers have had with Home Office Ministers to assist in compiling the report to the House on gang culture. [77834]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is fully supportive of the cross-Government work to end gang violence. Ministers from the Ministry of Justice have attended all four of the inter-ministerial meetings which have assisted in compiling the final report. No other meetings between Ministry of Justice Ministers and Home Office Ministers have taken place on this subject.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055, on public disorder, what meetings his officials have had with the Home Office to assist in compiling the report to the House on gang culture. [77836]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is fully supportive of the cross-Government work to end gang violence. Officials from the Ministry of Justice have attended five officials' group meetings, chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, in support of the inter-ministerial group which has compiled the final report. A further two meetings have taken place between Ministry of Justice and Home Office officials regarding proposals included in the draft report which will have an impact on Ministry of Justice responsibilities.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in prison are assessed as having been victims of domestic violence. [76942]

Mr Blunt: This information is not held centrally.

Previous studies have found up to half of women in prison have experienced abuse over the course of their lives, this includes sexual and physical abuse, including domestic violence.

Gangmasters Licensing Appeal Tribunal

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the functions are of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority appeals tribunal. [77639]

Mr Djanogly: The function of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority appeals tribunal is to hear appeals arising from decisions of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority made under the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004, on decisions to revoke, refuse or modify a licence, or the refusal to consent to the transfer of a licence.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing level will be for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority appeals tribunal in each year to 2014-15. [77640]

Mr Djanogly: In September 2011 responsibility for administering the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) Tribunal transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The budget for the tribunal now sits within Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) overall operating budget and it is difficult to identify separate resources precisely because they are shared across other parts of HMCTS operations. However, the anticipated running costs of the GLA tribunal cases are £50,000 per annum. The majority of the costs are those of the tribunal panel members. Staff resourcing is provided by HMCTS, and a dedicated administrator in support of the panel equating to one half of an administrative officer full-time post is assigned to GLA tribunal duties.

Legal Aid Scheme: Domestic Violence

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received from domestic violence groups on proposed reductions in the legal aid budget. [76988]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government's consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales closed on 14 February 2011 and the response was published on 21 June 2011.

We received a number of consultation responses from domestic violence groups as well as more recent representations. These have focused on the definition of the domestic violence used in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill and the circumstances that would provide evidence of domestic violence in order to qualify someone for legal aid in a private family case.

Prisons: Death

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many deaths were recorded as unclassified in each prison in England and Wales in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; [77623]

(2) what the causes were for each unclassified death that was recorded in prisons in England and Wales in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [77626]

Mr Blunt: The actual cause of deaths in prison, whether suicide, natural, self-inflicted or murder, is determined at the inquest and may therefore be unknown for several years. This means that published numbers of deaths by apparent cause can change over time as inquests take place. In some cases the cause may never be clearly established.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) system of classifying deaths has evolved to help place reliable numbers of deaths in prison custody in the public domain without undue delay. Where, on the information available, the cause of death is not apparent the NOMS records the death as unclassified.

There are currently no unclassified deaths recorded for 2009. It has been possible following post mortem and other tests such as toxicology to classify all deaths in that year as either apparent self-inflicted, suspected natural causes, apparent homicide or other non-natural.

For 2010, there are seven unclassified deaths recorded for which, on the information currently available, it is not possible to identify the apparent cause of death. The deaths took place at HMPs Bronzefield, Brixton (2), Holloway, Wealstun, Low Newton and Doncaster.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of appeals in respect of the work capability assessment in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011 to date. [78030]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

The estimated total cost of ESA appeals in which the work capability assessment was a factor during 2009-10, 2010-11 and April to August 2011 (the latest period for which published data are available) is summarised in the following table:

	Number of ESA appeals in which work capability assessment was a factor[1]	*Total cost (£ million)*
2009-10	68,239	19.243
2010-11	166,464	39.785
2011 (April to August)	79,966	19.112

[1] The figures may not correspond with previously published data, because the extract from management information was taken at a later point in time.

For each period these estimated costs were calculated by multiplying the average cost of an individual First-tier Tribunal-Social Security and Child Support case by the number of ESA appeals disposed of, in which the work capability assessment was a factor.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75622]

Chris Grayling: From May 2010 the Department has spent £5,931 on advertising job vacancies.

Supporting Information

Since May 2010 the Department has commissioned 17 external recruitment exercises and 118 internal recruitment exercises.

Only one of the external recruitment exercises incurred advertising costs due to the nature of the post, which was a specialist payroll management post that was advertised both nationally and locally. Due to the recruitment freeze across Government, formal approval was received from the Permanent Secretary to proceed with the advertising for this post.

Internal recruitment exercises incur no advertising costs.

The post in question was a Payroll Manager post, skills that we do not readily have in the Department or in the public sector more generally in the north-east. The post is based at Benton Park View, Newcastle in Employee Services within Shared Services. The costs were as follows:

The Payroll Manager post was advertised twice:

First run: £500 for *Times Online* and £4,273.92 in *Evening Chronicle Jobs Supplement* (Newcastle local press)

Second run: *CIPP* magazine £1,158

Total spend: £5,931.92

The Department has comparative advertising costs for the preceding 12 months. In the 12 months ended 30 April 2010, there were 280 external recruitment exercises that were advertised online costing £18,723 and in hard-copy press and journals costing £216,782. Total advertising costs in that 12-month period were £235,505.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77373]

Chris Grayling: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of property that it owns, and which has been lost or stolen.

The Department's IT equipment is leased from service providers and reports of losses to the Department do not differentiate between stolen, missing or lost equipment.

Excluding lower value items, there were 97 reported losses of individual items of equipment, including laptop computers, mobile telephones and BlackBerry phone devices between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2011.

In all cases of theft the matter is fully investigated and appropriate action taken by the Department. Where the item concerned is not recovered, the police will be informed as a matter of routine.

In case of loss, disciplinary action is taken where appropriate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77587]

Chris Grayling: No external funding is received for the ministerial office of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), or for his advisers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77375]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer I gave him on 25 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 139-140W.

Departmental Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in the last 12 months. [77150]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) operates several telephone helplines and service lines. It has not been possible to provide a detailed breakdown of funding for each service line, as many DWP people are to be multi skilled, either across several service lines and helplines or they perform both telephony and processing duties.

The information provided is by business.

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus operates 22 service lines. Figures for calls received are for the last 12 months unless otherwise stated:

First contact—where members of the public contact us to make a new claim to benefit. Calls received 5,968,813;

Crisis loans (for living expenses)—where claimants contact us to apply for a Crisis loan. Calls received 7,648,744;

Employer Direct—where employers contact us to place a vacancy. Calls received 801,363;

National insurance number (NINO) allocation—where people without a NINO can apply for one. Calls received 1,256,240;

National benefit fraud hotline—where members of the public report claimants for suspected benefit fraud. Calls received 254,314;

Tax evasion hotline—is operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of HMRC, members of the public report people for suspected tax evasion. Calls received 53,776;

Local authority fraud—is operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of local authorities, members of the public report people for suspected housing benefit or council tax benefit fraud. Calls received 7,243;

Jobseekers allowance (JSA) benefit enquiry line—JSA claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an enquiry about their claim. Calls received 12,161,938;

Income support (IS) benefit enquiry line—IS claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an enquiry about their claim. Calls received 6,880,021;

Incapacity benefit (IB) enquiry line—IB claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an enquiry about their claim. Calls received 1,706,724;

IB reassessment—Dealing with claimants enquiring about IB reassessment. Calls received 187,352;

Employment support allowance (ESA)—Benefit for working age claimants unable to work on grounds of incapacity. Calls received 1,654,844

Employment support allowance (ESA) enquiry line—ESA claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an enquiry about their claim. Calls received 7,935,594;

Maternity allowance—where members of the public contact us to make a new claim to maternity allowance. Calls received 262,821;

Overseas vacancy team—where employers contact us to place a vacancy outside of the UK. Calls received 141;

International jobsearch advice—is for members of the public who want information about working and living abroad. Calls received 431;

Jobseeker direct—members of the public can call to look for jobs or obtain more information about a particular vacancy they have found. Calls received 3,600,086;

Self service helpdesk—technical support for customers who are having difficulty making an application to benefit online. Calls received 4,394;

UK Borders Agency Immigration Enquiry Bureau—Jobcentre Plus are currently running a proof of concept exercise in partnership with UKBA taking some of their calls dealing with enquiries from immigration and emigration. Calls received 136,745 (figures from February 2011 only);

E-Business operational support team—technical support for employers who are having difficulty placing a vacancy online. Calls received 38,489;

Small and medium business recruitment helpline—offers advice and support to small and medium-sized businesses and guides them through the recruitment process. Calls received 28,810;

Social fund—enquiry line for customers relating to enquiries re social fund claims. Calls received 5,962,228.

The overall budget for this year is £212.3 million and this is broken down into £197.8 million for staff costs and £14.5 million for non-staff costs. Agents who operate Jobcentre Plus service lines are multi skilled, which means that they answer calls across multiple service lines. This means that they are unable to provide a breakdown of funding per service line. They do not undertake any duties other than telephony.

Shared Services

Shared services are split into three areas, purchase to pay and payment resolution service, employee services and debt management.

Purchase to pay and payment resolution service operates three service lines and helplines;

Purchase to pay helpline—is for suppliers relating to queries around payments for goods and services. It also receives calls from Jobcentre Plus advisers and claimants seeking clarification on payments made to support people back to work. Calls received 131,675.

This line is operated by approximately 13 staff and costs £290,000 per annum.

Bank liaison section—is an internal helpline and receives calls from Pension Centre or Jobcentre Plus staff requesting that the bank liaison section recalls a payment from a bank account. Calls received 169,820.

This line is operated by approximately five staff and costs £110,000 per annum.

Third party payments helpline—is a helpline for third party creditors, for example utilities companies and local authorities, querying payments made to them following deductions made from benefits. Calls received 25,258.

This line is operated by approximately 2.5 staff and costs £55,000 per annum.

The Purchase to Pay and Payment Resolution Service estimated non-staff annual costs are £128,508. This means that overall this service will cost £583,508 this operational year.

Employee Services operates three internal service lines and helplines for DWP employees to raise HR and payroll queries.

Simple queries are answered at the first point of contact and funding of £1.510 million has been provided for this year. Calls received 235,570;

More complex queries are handled by specialist caseworkers and funding of £169,000 has been provided for this year. 509 complex cases handled;

An external recruitment helpline is operated for candidates applying for externally advertised posts. Due to the civil service recruitment freeze no funding has been provided for this activity for 2011/12. Calls received 624.

Employee Services estimated non-staff annual costs are £299,520. This means that overall this service will cost £1,978,520 this operational year.

Debt Management does not operate any helplines but has three service lines:

Debt Recovery—is for customers to make enquiries about new or ongoing debt cases. Calls received 970,188;

Debt Payment—debt customers are able to make direct payments through debit card transactions. Calls received 139,189;

Recovery from Estates—is for enquiries regarding debt recovery from a deceased customer's estate. Calls received 61,346.

Debt management's overall budget for this year is £6,902,967 and this is broken down into £6,121,755 for staff costs and £781,212 for non-staff costs.

Pensions

PDCS operates 15 helplines and service lines:

State pension new claims—where members of the public contact us to claim their state pension. Calls received 994,805;

Pension credit new claims—for customers who have an enquiry relating to pension credit. This includes checking entitlement, making a new claim or progressing a claim which they have already started. Calls received 1,016,810;

State pension changes—for customers who are in receipt of their state pension and wish to inform PDCS of a change of circumstances. Calls received 2,361,965;

Pension credit changes—for customers who are in receipt of their pension credit and wish to inform PDCS of a change of circumstances. Calls received 2,477,115;

Bereavement service—for customers who are calling to report bereavement, this provides advice and support on how to cease benefits. Calls received 566,145;

Future Pension Centre—for members of the public at working age who want a pension forecast. Calls received 672,742

National Pension Centre—for customers who are in receipt of state pension and are above a certain age who wish to make a query about their claim or report a change of circumstances. Calls received 457,572

International Pension Centre—for customers who are living abroad and are in receipt of state pension. Calls received 501,573

Tell Us Once service—is undertaking a phased roll-out approach and allows customers who live within certain local authorities to give details of bereavement and this will notify all other affected authorities of the bereavement. Calls received 11,216;

Winter fuel—for customers who have a query relating to winter fuel. This service is only available within the months of November to March. Calls received 363,605;

Pension tracing service—for customers who have lost details of a Pension scheme which they were previously contributing to. Calls received 51,744;

Method of payment reform service—for customers who receive their state pension or pension credit via cheque or giro cheque and need to change their payment method to direct payment to a bank account. Calls received 13,566;

Method of payment social fund—for customers who receive their state pension or pension credit via cheque or giro cheque and need to change their payment method to direct payment to a bank account. Calls received 4,322;

Overseas healthcare team—for customers making enquiries about healthcare abroad. This is includes applying for, renewing and make changes to a European Health Insurance Card. It is also an advice line for customers who are travelling abroad as well as a helpline for NHS and insurance workers. Calls received 124,093;

Ventura [DLA] DCS claims—The DCS Claims line deal with customer requests for claim packs regarding disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Calls received 11,351

Pensions budgets are calculated by Pension Centre rather than by function and staff perform both telephony and processing duties, which means that it is not possible to provide a breakdown by service line nor how much funding is given to their telephony services. Pensions have an overall budget of £155 million for this operational year.

Disability and Carers Service

Disability and Carers Service operates three service lines and have no helplines.

Carers allowance—for customers who have caring responsibilities for a disabled person and deals with all enquiries, including new claims. Calls received 962,707.

This service line has a budget of £3.5 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Disability living allowance/attendance allowance helpline—deals with all enquiries, including new claims, for disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Calls received 4,789,944.

This service line has a budget of £8.7 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Benefit enquiry line (BEL)—is a helpline for people with disabilities, their carers and representatives, offering confidential advice and general information on all benefits and how to claim them. Calls received 700,816.

This service line has a budget of £1.1 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Employment and Support Allowance

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with multiple sclerosis who will be affected by his proposal to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group. [77539]

Chris Grayling: Estimates of the number of people affected by time limiting of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) for those in the work related activity group to one year are based on national ESA caseload forecasts, which cannot be broken down by detailed medical condition. Therefore, the Department is unable to provide the information requested.

The Department recently published an ad hoc analysis of incapacity benefits caseloads by detailed medical condition, type of payment and phase of claim. Medical condition is based on the International

Classifications of Diseases (ICD10). This analysis was published on 20 July 2011 and can be accessed using the following link:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis_2011_q3

This shows that at November 2010 there were 1,320 ESA claimants in the work-related activity group where the primary condition was classed as multiple sclerosis. However, the time limit would only apply to those who claim contributory ESA in the work-related activity group for a year or more.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking in respect of specialist Work programme providers who have not received any referrals; [77216]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reasons why certain Tier 2 Work programme providers in London have not received any referrals; [77217]

(3) how many Tier 2 providers to the Work programme had not received a referral on the latest date for which information is available. [77218]

Chris Grayling: The referral arrangements between prime providers and their supply chain partners are commercial matters between the organisations concerned. We are aware that there have been fewer employment and support allowance (ESA) referrals to the Work programme in the first three months of operation. Measures have been adopted to remedy this, including those announced in the written ministerial statement on 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 76WS, such as the information sessions being held by Work programme providers for ESA claimants with longer prognoses.

DWP has implemented the Merlin Standard to encourage excellent supply chain management and fair treatment of sub-contractors by prime providers. Providers will be penalised for non-compliance with the standard.

Employment Schemes: Homelessness

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of specialist employment support to homeless people in London being provided by the Work programme. [77215]

Chris Grayling: We expect all Work programme providers to work closely with a range of specialist groups that can help support people into sustained employment. This includes engaging organisations that can help support those with specialist needs, such as homelessness. The Work programme launched nationally in June and has long-term goals and measures of success. A full independent evaluation has recently been commissioned.

Job-clubs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on job clubs in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency since their introduction. [76975]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the format requested as we do not hold data at local authority or parliamentary constituency level. We have, however, been able to provide data by region and DWP district.

Expenditure on work clubs and enterprise clubs from their introduction, to September 2011

£

	Work clubs	*Enterprise clubs*
Central England	24,404	29,500
Birmingham and Solihull	13,285	29,500
Mercia	9,562	0
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,557	0
London and the Home Counties	74,969	0
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	7,153	0
East London	29,476	0
Kent	5	0
North London	29,866	0
South London	5,304	0
West London	3,165	0
North East England	25,889	9,972
Durham and Tees Valley	8,209	0
North East Yorkshire and Humberside	6,640	9,972
South Yorkshire	11,040	0
North West England	78,018	1,080
Cumbria and Lancashire	978	1,080
Merseyside	49,336	0
Manchester Central	10,379	0
Manchester East and West	17,325	0
Scotland	21,236	0
East Scotland	5,304	0
Glasgow, Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	6,281	0
North of Scotland	6,679	0
West of Scotland	2,972	0
Southern England	50,978	4,699
Devon and Cornwall	29,230	4,699
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	990	0
Thames Valley	14,007	0
Wessex	3,767	0
West of England and Gloucestershire	2,984	0
Wales	14,149	0
North and Mid Wales	12,836	0
South East Wales	1,313	0

Notes:

1. Figures shown have been rounded to the nearest £1.

2. DWP districts with no expenditure on Work Clubs or Enterprise Clubs have not been shown.

Source:

DWP Resource Management accounting system.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Appeals

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department was of a tribunal in respect of a claim for jobseeker's allowance in the latest year for which figures are available. [76920]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold data relating to the overall costs for tribunal hearings for jobseeker's allowance appeals. However, we are able to provide the average cost of the administrative steps involved in preparing a jobseeker's allowance appeal by the Department; and the average cost of an appeal, i.e. in respect of all appeal types, for Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

The average administration cost to the Department for jobseeker's allowance appeals was £170. This figure covers 2010-11, which is the latest period covered by the annual report and accounts.

The average cost to HMCTS of a completed appeal in the First-tier Tribunal, Social Security and Child Support chamber, was £282 using the most recent verified data (2009-10).

Child Maintenance: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have been subject to enforcement action for non-payment of child maintenance in each of the last five years. [75721]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have been subject to enforcement action for non-payment of child maintenance in each of the last five years. [75721]

Where a non-resident parent fails to pay maintenance, there are a number of enforcement actions available. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to implement, and the length of the order, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance—but this is not a criminal sanction.

It is not possible provide the number of enforcement actions specifically for non-resident parents who have failed to pay maintenance for children residing in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

The total volume of enforcement actions carried out by the Child Support Agency is shown on page 23 of the June 2011 Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), available at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0611.html

and in the House of Commons library. This shows that in the twelve months to March 2011 63,060 new deduction from earnings orders were sent to employers to take money from a non-resident parent's earnings or pension, over 18,000 liability orders were granted, over 11,000 cases were referred to bailiffs and 1,050 non-resident parents received immediate or suspended committal sentences.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Organised Crime: Departmental Co-ordination

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055, on public disorder, what meetings he and his Ministers have had with Home Office Ministers to assist in compiling the report to the House on gang culture. [77833]

Chris Grayling: The following information shows DWP ministerial meetings with Home Office Ministers in compiling the report on gang culture.

Minister	*Meeting with Home Office Minister*	*Date*
Secretary of State	Inter Ministerial Group: Dealing with Gang Culture	15 August 2011
Secretary of State	Inter Ministerial Group: Dealing with Gang Culture	5 September 2011
Secretary of State	Inter Ministerial Group: Dealing with Gang Culture	29 September 2011
Secretary of State	Visit with Home Secretary	6 October 2011
Secretary of State	Inter Ministerial Group: Dealing with Gang Culture	12 October 2011
Secretary of State	International Forum on Gangs	13 October 2011

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has also had a number of telephone conversations with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

Officials from the Department for Work and Pensions were in frequent and regular contact with Home Office officials throughout this period to contribute recommendations to draft sections of the report and to organise conferences. Senior officials attended the regular meetings chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Home Office.

Pensions: Public Sector

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public sector employees in each pay quartile he expects to cease making contributions to their pension following planned increases in contribution rates. [77694]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The spending review 2010 announced progressive increases to the level of employee contributions equivalent to an average of 3.2 percentage points, to be phased in over three years from April 2012.

As set out in my written ministerial statement of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 92-94WS, there will be no increase in employee contributions for those earning less that £15,000 and no more than a 1.5 percentage point increase in total by 2014-15 for those earning up to £21,000.

The Government's assumption is that in total 1% of the pay-bill will opt out in the unfunded schemes as a result of the contribution increases. This has been scrutinized by the Office for Budget Responsibility. No assumption has been made about the distribution of opt-outs by pay quartile.

Remploy

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Remploy factories Ministers in his Department have visited in the last six months; and what representations they have received from Remploy employees on future business liability. [77553]

Maria Miller: I have visited both the Newcastle and Leven Remploy factories in the last six months. Also, as part of the Sayce consultation the Department held a series of six events where Remploy employees had an opportunity to directly contribute to the consultation in addition to written and online submissions. I attended the consultation event in Reading where I met and discussed the Sayce recommendations with employees. I have also held two briefing meetings for MPs.

No direct representations have been received from Remploy employees on the future of the business, although we have consulted on the recommendations of the Sayce report and have received almost 1,400 responses, including responses from Remploy employees. We will take time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding he provided to Remploy to improve its technology for the manufacture of life jackets in the last three years. [77554]

Maria Miller: In the three years to March 2011 the capital expenditure for the textile business was £125,000. I am unable to specify what funding has been provided for Remploy to improve its technology for the manufacture of life jackets in the last three years.

The Department agrees the overall funding and performance targets each year with Remploy. The day-to-day running of the company and achievements of targets is the responsibility of the Remploy board and executive team.

Social Rented Housing: Employment

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of families living in social housing had no one in the household in employment in the latest period for which figures are available. [76352]

Steve Webb: We have restricted this analysis to working age households because the high proportion of pensioner households not in employment would otherwise risk distorting the overall answer.

Proportion of working age households in the social rented sector by employment status

Employment status within household	*Percentage*
No working age adult in employment	49
At least one working age adult in employment	51

Notes:

1. The FRS is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK private households. Data for 2009-10, the latest year available, were collected between April 2009 and March 2010.

2. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

3. The 'social rented sector' is defined as all cases where the local authority is the landlord, and all housing associations including New Town Development Corporations and the Scottish Special Housing Association, except where accommodation is part of the job.

4. A Household is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (ie a living room). A household will consist of one of more benefit units (ie two single adults in a two-bed household would count as two benefit units, but only one household).

5. A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and dependent children; from January 2006 same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabitees) are included in the same benefit unit.

6. For married or cohabiting couples, if either individual is classified as a pensioner, then the benefit unit is classified as a pensioner benefit unit and therefore excluded from this analysis.

7. Working age households are defined as households having at least one (possibly more) working age benefit units.

8. The employment status of adults has been defined using the Adult Employment Status—based on the ILO definition.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2009/10

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much direct funding his Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74812]

Chris Grayling: The Department has allocated direct funding to civil society organisations as follows:

DWP's payments to civil society organisations

£ million

Description	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Direct payments to Motability (indicative)	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Payments made to credit unions (2012-13 onwards yet to be decided)	16.7	11.8	—	—	—
Amounts paid to Community Development Fund	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total payments	18.8	12.9	1.0	1.0	1.0

As Pensions Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb), advised the House on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 7-8, the Department is looking into how it can best continue to support credit unions to modernise and expand in the future, including funding for future years of the spending review.

The Department contracts for many services and programmes and we do not keep records by type of organisation. Therefore, determining which of those are civil society organisations and how much we pay to each of them could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Work Capability Assessment

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* work capability assessments, *(b)* work capability assessments for new employment and support allowance claimants and *(c)* work capability assessments for reassessed incapacity benefit claimants were carried out in each month since February 2011. [77270]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the number of work capability assessments (WCAs) completed for claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance (ESA). The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/
index.php?page=esa_wca

This publication does not include information on incapacity benefit (IB) reassessment (see section c for more detail). Therefore, statistics on the overall number of WCAs completed in each month since February are currently unavailable.

(b) Tables 2 and 2a in the publication show monthly statistics on completed initial and repeat assessments for ESA claims from October 2008 up to May 2011 (the latest data available).

The following table shows completed assessments since February 2011. This is a summary of Tables 2 and 2a in the publication. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and as a result may not sum to row totals.

Completed assessments by month of assessment

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
March 2011	45,100	20,400	65,500
April 2011	31,700	15,000	46,600
May 2011	35,700	17,600	53,400

Notes:

1. Information relating to periods beyond May 2011 will be published on a quarterly basis as usual.
2. The data presented in the table come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
3. These figures do not include IB reassessment claims.
4. A small number of clerical assessments, where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data, are excluded from these figures.

(c) The reassessment of existing incapacity benefits customers using the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) was rolled out nationally from February 2011.

Letters are being issued as planned to 11,000 claimants per week informing them that their reassessment is about to commence. To manage the process smoothly, volumes were gradually ramped up from the end of February, and the numbers reached 11,000 per week in May. As at the end of September 2011, approximately 128,000 WCAs have been completed for IB Reassessment claimants. After the WCA, the decision on entitlement to benefit is taken by a DWP Decision Maker.

No official statistics are available on WCAs completed for IB Reassessment claimants so the information on the number of WCAs completed above is from the Department's management information system. It relates to those assessments where Atos have made a recommendation based on either a face-to-face assessment or cleared by scrutiny of the customer's medical questionnaire. It does not include those customers whose WCA recommendations were returned to Jobcentre Plus because they had not complied with the process.

As it was never the intention to publish this management information, it has not been subject to the same rigorous quality assurance processes that are used for official statistics and as a result it should be used with a degree of caution. In addition, a monthly breakdown of the management information is not reliable because the data are captured by week. This means that for those weeks that cross over a month end the data cannot be attributed to any particular calendar month.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process but only once it has been quality assured and is considered robust.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those awaiting the result of an appeal against a negative work capability assessment decision will be entitled to receive the assessment rate of employment and support allowance while they wait in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* future years. [77271]

Chris Grayling: We constantly review the benefit system to ensure that it is as efficient as possible. We are in the process of considering appeals—as a consequence of the provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill, including universal credit and the requirement to undertake a reconsideration before appealing. However, no decisions have yet been made.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments for claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance were completed in each week from the beginning of February 2011 to date. [77142]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the number of work capability assessments (WCAs) completed for claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance (ESA). The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/
index.php?page=esa_wca

Tables 2 and 2a in the above publication show monthly statistics on completed initial and repeat assessments for ESA claims from October 2008 up to May 2011 (the latest data available).

The following table shows completed assessments since February 2011. This is a summary of Tables 2 and 2a in the publication. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and as a result may not sum to row totals.

Completed assessments by month of assessment

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Notes:
1. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
2. These figures do not include IB reassessment claims.
3. A small number of clerical assessments, where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data, are excluded from these figures.

Information relating to periods beyond May 2011 will be published on a quarterly basis as usual .

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how long he plans to prevent Work programme providers from making public their performance data; [77964]

(2) if he will lift the contractual ban on publication by Work programme providers of their performance data; [77965]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Cabinet Office's data transparency initiative on the publication of Work programme performance data. [77967]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to allow Work programme providers to share their performance data ahead of the publication of official Work programme statistics, nor do we intend to change the contract clause that prevents providers from publishing their performance data. This is essential to ensure that the publication of official information is properly managed in line with the UK Statistics Authority legislation. Early publication of providers' own performance data could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process and also impact on the accuracy of the data.

The Work programme only started in June 2011, it lasts two years for each individual and, as providers only receive job outcome payments once a participant has been in employment and off benefit for up to 26 weeks, it will be 2012 before performance data start to be recorded. The intention is therefore to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012.

In line with the Government's transparency agenda, we have published providers' minimum service offers to all customers to ensure that customers are aware what they can expect, and that providers live up to what they have told us they will deliver.

HEALTH

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77415]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Department of Health (DH) non-current assets with a value greater than £250,000 purchased between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011

Asset or capital programme description	*Asset purpose*
Richmond House: Building and electrical works	Richmond House: Installation of fresh air supply and extract unit incorporating heat recovery, cooling and heating to the 2nd Floor.
E-learning for Healthcare training module software	Development and delivery of online content for the training of the NHS workforce across the United Kingdom
DH Furniture	Purchase of new desks for DH Buildings to enable re-cabling and the introduction of Ultra Thin Client Technology
Richmond House: Building and electrical works	Richmond House: Installation of fresh air supply and extract unit incorporating heat recovery, cooling and heating to the 1st floor and terrace.
151 Buckingham Palace Road refurbishment	151 Buckingham Palace Road. Refurbishment for occupation by three DH arms length bodies (ALBs)—pre-construction and design.
151 Buckingham Palace Road refurbishment—furniture	Purchase of furniture for the 2nd floor of No.151 Buckingham Palace Road in preparation for occupation by three DH ALBs.
Ambulance radio equipment and infrastructure	Provision of a digital radio network and communication services for use by Ambulance Trusts.
151 Buckingham Palace Road—refurbishment	151 Buckingham Palace Road refurbishment (internal finishes, fittings and furnishing, demolition).
NHS Factsheets, internally generated software	Development of software and infrastructure to support briefing to Ministers and key stakeholders in respect of the status and performance of NHS organisations.
Financial Consolidation Project	Development of software and infrastructure to support delivery of the Department's consolidated statutory accounts.
Upgrade of Electronic Staff Records (ESR) system	Upgrade of ESR infrastructure under DH contractual commitments.
Upgrade of DH IT Infrastructure Standard Operating Environment	Delivery of a major upgrade to the desktop tools and operating system to the Department's desktop and laptop computers.
Electronic Staff Records (ESR) Pipeline Development	Continuing development of the ESR solution, to ensure that it continues to be fit for purpose and up to date.

Department of Health (DH) non-current assets with a value greater than £250,000 purchased between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011

Asset or capital programme description	*Asset purpose*
151 Buckingham Palace Road refurbishment	151 Buckingham Palace Road refurbishment for occupation by three DH ALBs—final construction work.
Richmond House—1st floor refurbishment	Richmond House-1st Floor, redecoration and electrical work.
National programme for IT—London (BT contract)	NHS Connecting for Health programme, for the purpose of providing information services to the NHS in England. The expenditure on assets includes infrastructure (e.g. servers and data centres), software, licences and deployments[1]
National programme for IT—north-east, north-west and east(CSC contract)	[1]—
National programme for IT—south (BT contract)	[1]—
GP systems of choice	[1]—
Offender Health—Prison IT	[1]—
Choose and Book	[1]—
Choose and Book Extension	[1]—
National Spine	[1]—
National Software Licences	[1]—
Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS)	[1]—
NHS Mail	[1]—
Healthspace Extension	[1]—
Message Handling and ICM	[1]—
New General Medical Service (nGMS) Payments System Project	[1]—
National Health Applications and Infrastructure Services(NHAIS) Systems	[1]—
National Integration Centre and Assurance (NICA)	[1]—
NHS Gateway Capital Development	[1]—

[1] Indicates a brace

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77414]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has experienced losses or thefts in all the above categories since May 2010. No distinction is made between items lost or stolen.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in the last 12 months. [77151]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's Communication Directorate either runs or promotes the phone lines listed in the following chart. Information on the number of calls is not available in the requested format and to produce them would incur disproportionate cost. The chart shows call figures for the last complete year of operation.

Call centre	*Number of calls 2010-11*	*Budget 2011-12 (£)*[1]	*Purpose of line*
Carers Direct	24,014	1,200,000	Information, advice and support for carers
Change4Life	14,460	200,000	Offers publications, advice and registration to the Change4Life programme
Department of Health Order Line	92,107	[2]180,000	Publication order line
Drink, Drugs and Sexual Health	393,356	1,000,000	Advice line for adults on drink, drugs and sexual health
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)	1,111,244	[2]1,090,000	Offers an ordering and replacement service as well as advice on the EHIC
Healthy Start	441,753	[2]1,150,000	Supports the provision of milk and fruit and vegetable vouchers
National Breastfeeding Helpline	34,502	150,000	Offers advice and support on breast feeding
NHS Careers	27,627	880,000	Offers advice and publications for potential NHS careers recruits, returners and existing NHS staff
Tobacco	79,047	1,370,000	Offers advice and support on smoking cessation

Call centre	*Number of calls 2010-11*	*Budget 2011-12 (£)*[1]	*Purpose of line*
Worth talking about	746,406	630,000	Sexual health advice for teenagers

[1] All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000.

[2] Estimated budget (the budget for the call centre is part of a wider contract).

Notes:

1. As it is not always possible to anticipate the demand for the services provided by the above call centres, final spend is often lower than the budget allowed.
2. The budget allowed may include some non-phone line costs such as staff training, data management and fulfilment.
3. The budget allowed will also include some non-voice help offered by the call centre such as text phone use, web chat, social network response handling and email handling.
4. The chart is based on call centres rather than individual phone lines. Most call centres run multiple phone numbers to allow for campaign measurement.

The Department does not collect information on the telephone numbers used by national health service organisations. Information about telephone services for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The Department also supports a range of voluntary, charitable and other organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations may include telephone help lines as part of their services. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to identify individual projects with telephone services and their budgets.

Patient Lists

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the levels of list inflation in *(a)* North London, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* the South West. [77249]

Mr Simon Burns: Latest available estimates of list inflation held by the Department are contained in the following table at primary care trust (PCT) level only. It is the responsibility of PCTs and local general practitioner practices to ensure they maintain accurate patient registration details.

Patient list inflation

	PCT code	*PCT name*	*Exeter as at March 2010*	*ONS estimate 2008*	*Actual difference between Exeter and ONS*	*Cross border inflows*	*Cross border outflows*	*Difference between inflow and outflow*	*Numbers of ghost patients to be accounted for*
North London	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	264,985	258,100	6,885	15,999	24,736	-8,736	15,621
	5C1	Enfield PCT	296,505	289,000	7,505	11,938	29,168	-17,230	24,735
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	179,240	168,600	10,640	13,768	15,708	-1,940	12,580
	5HX	Ealing PCT	353,051	312,100	40,951	43,624	28,055	15,569	25,382
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	254,046	230,200	23,846	30,135	28,722	1,413	22,433
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	350,393	254,500	95,893	39,011	27,650	11,362	84,531
	5K6	Harrow PCT	234,054	225,400	8,654	19,660	35,804	-16,144	24,798
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	184,885	171,100	13,785	27,948	15,474	12,474	1,311
	5LC	Westminster PCT	243,129	246,600	-3,471	32,362	31,156	1,206	-4,677
South West and including Devon PCT	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	252,550	260,400	-7,850	12,325	25,653	-13,328	5,478
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	268,838	255,600	13,238	6,971	491	6,480	6,758
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	194,122	177,400	16,722	11,691	3,330	8,361	8,361
	5K3	Swindon PCT	210,900	201,100	9,800	2,638	3,498	-860	10,660
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	205,710	207,000	-1,290	2,037	5,002	-2,965	1,675
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	606,120	586,200	19,920	15,697	16,727	-1,030	20,950
	5QJ	Bristol PCT	453,736	426,100	27,636	21,861	9,362	12,499	15,137
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	456,117	454,100	2,017	13,022	15,571	-2,549	4,566
	5QL	Somerset PCT	534,284	524,200	10,084	9,055	15,449	-6,395	16,479
	5QM	Dorset PCT	399,854	405,800	-5,946	20,522	41,103	-20,581	14,635
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	357,670	305,300	52,370	25,817	5,043	20,775	31,595

Patient list inflation

PCT code	PCT name	Exeter as at March 2010	ONS estimate 2008	Actual difference between Exeter and ONS	Cross border inflows	Cross border outflows	Difference between inflow and outflow	Numbers of ghost patients to be accounted for
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	544,011	531,500	12,511	1,482	2,739	-1,257	13,768
5QQ	Devon PCT	755,505	746,800	8,705	6,372	18,696	-12,324	21,029
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	145,703	134,000	11,703	5,551	387	5,163	6,540

Source:
Data taken from Office for National Statistics (ONS) resident and Exeter 2010.Registered extracted populations

Learning Disability

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of working age with a learning disability in each local authority area who are known to social services are in *(a)* paid full-time, *(b)* paid part-time, *(c)* unpaid full-time and *(d)* unpaid part-time work. [77546]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of working age adults with a learning disability known to councils with adult social services responsibilities in employment is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care via the National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service online analytical processing tool.

Information for those working in unpaid employment split into part-time or full-time unpaid work is not collected centrally. The number of working age adults with a learning disability working in only unpaid work and those working in both paid and unpaid work have been provided in the following table.

Number of working age adults with a learning disability known to councils with adult social service responsibilities[1] by employment status, during 2009-10[2]—England

Rounded numbers

CASSR name	Working as a paid employee or self-employed (30 or more hours per week)	Working as a paid employee or self-employed (less than 30 hours per week)[3]	Working as a paid employee or self-employed and in unpaid voluntary work[4]	In unpaid voluntary work only
Cumbria	10	55	0	55
Northumberland	15	40	10	70
Gateshead	0	25	0	25
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	20	0	65
North Tyneside	5	35	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	0	30	5	55
Hartlepool	0	55	10	20
Middlesbrough	10	50	30	50
Redcar and Cleveland	0	25	0	20
Stockton-on-Tees	0	10	0	25
Durham	0	55	10	105
Darlington	0	15	5	15
Barnsley	0	10	0	85
Doncaster	5	45	35	40
Rotherham	5	35	75	35
Sheffield	10	30	65	60
Bradford	0	80	25	70
Calderdale	5	40	5	45
Kirklees	50	35	0	85
Leeds	10	80	0	15
Wakefield	5	35	5	35
East Riding of Yorkshire	5	55	10	50
Kingston upon Hull	0	0	0	10
North East Lincolnshire	10	65	10	40
North Lincolnshire	15	15	0	15
North Yorkshire	10	55	5	225
York	0	20	5	30
Bolton	0	10	5	50
Bury	5	30	0	45
Manchester	15	60	15	75
Oldham	15	40	5	35
Rochdale	0	10	0	0
Salford	5	35	0	10
Stockport	5	80	10	25
Tameside	15	45	40	550

Number of working age adults with a learning disability known to councils with adult social service responsibilities[1] by employment status, during 2009-10[2]—England

Rounded numbers

CASSR name	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (30 or more hours per week)*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (less than 30 hours per week)[3]*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed and in unpaid voluntary work[4]*	*In unpaid voluntary work only*
Trafford	0	30	0	5
Wigan	0	30	5	65
Knowsley	0	10	0	25
Liverpool	115	25	0	50
Sefton	0	30	10	60
St. Helens	0	20	0	25
Wirral	5	45	10	60
Halton	0	35	15	65
Warrington	5	20	5	100
Lancashire	5	120	15	215
Blackburn with Darwen	0	5	0	10
Blackpool	0	20	0	15
Cheshire East	20	20	0	0
Cheshire West and Chester	15	50	0	30
Warwickshire	5	55	10	60
Birmingham	10	55	0	150
Coventry	0	35	5	5
Dudley	5	30	10	80
Sandwell	15	5	0	10
Solihull	0	15	5	35
Walsall	0	5	0	0
Wolverhampton	0	15	0	10
Staffordshire	5	95	15	140
Stoke-on-Trent	10	35	25	80
Herefordshire	15	45	5	45
Worcestershire	10	65	10	125
Shropshire	10	55	10	155
Telford and the Wrekin	0	15	0	15
Lincolnshire	0	90	5	80
Northamptonshire	55	45	0	0
Derbyshire	5	45	10	120
Derby	0	30	5	0
Leicestershire	10	45	25	150
Leicester	0	105	30	35
Rutland	0	25	0	5
Nottinghamshire	60	120	0	90
Nottingham	5	5	0	10
Hertfordshire	25	115	5	55
Norfolk	40	120	70	105
Oxfordshire	5	115	25	80
Suffolk	10	60	0	105
Luton	5	20	0	35
Buckinghamshire	20	100	[5]—	[5]—
Milton Keynes	5	55	20	15
Bracknell Forest	0	40	15	10
West Berkshire	5	25	10	145
Reading	5	25	5	65
Slough	5	20	0	15
Windsor and Maidenhead	5	35	15	45
Wokingham	0	90	0	20
Essex	5	210	5	15
Southend-on-Sea	0	55	25	5
Thurrock	0	15	0	20
Cambridgeshire	10	100	0	95
Peterborough	25	50	10	55
Bedford	0	15	5	35
Central Bedfordshire	5	20	0	25
Camden	10	30	15	35
Greenwich	0	30	5	40
Hackney	5	25	0	15
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	20	0	20

Number of working age adults with a learning disability known to councils with adult social service responsibilities[1] by employment status, during 2009-10[2]—England

Rounded numbers

CASSR name	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (30 or more hours per week)*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (less than 30 hours per week)[3]*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed and in unpaid voluntary work[4]*	*In unpaid voluntary work only*
Islington	5	25	0	5
Kensington and Chelsea	0	25	20	230
Lambeth	5	25	0	70
Lewisham	0	45	5	30
Southwark	20	120	5	70
Tower Hamlets	0	20	0	5
Wandsworth	0	35	0	30
Westminster	0	40	5	10
City of London	0	0	0	5
Barking and Dagenham	0	15	0	0
Barnet	10	70	15	35
Bexley	5	90	0	0
Brent	0	35	0	15
Bromley	15	135	5	20
Croydon	15	65	5	70
Ealing	15	85	0	55
Enfield	15	75	30	40
Haringey	10	20	0	25
Harrow	5	60	5	40
Havering	0	25	0	10
Hillingdon	0	0	0	30
Hounslow	10	25	0	15
Kingston upon Thames	15	20	5	35
Merton	10	25	0	30
Newham	0	25	0	20
Redbridge	0	20	60	25
Richmond upon Thames	5	40	5	5
Sutton	0	30	5	20
Waltham Forest	0	90	0	15
Isle of Wight	15	55	0	45
Surrey	55	255	10	160
West Sussex	0	280	0	295
Dorset	5	40	5	95
Bournemouth	25	35	0	20
Poole	5	20	0	25
Hampshire	60	285	0	150
Portsmouth	5	30	0	0
Southampton	0	30	0	0
East Sussex	0	60	10	90
Brighton and Hove	30	75	10	105
Wiltshire	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Swindon	0	15	0	15
Kent	25	175	0	100
Medway Towns	0	10	0	35
Cornwall	10	45	5	150
Gloucestershire	40	120	15	155
Somerset	0	45	10	65
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	5	15	0	30
Bristol	5	55	0	40
North Somerset	0	35	10	50
South Gloucestershire	10	30	0	15
Devon	5	75	0	0
Plymouth	5	30	10	65

Number of working age adults with a learning disability known to councils with adult social service responsibilities[1] by employment status, during 2009-10[2]—England

Rounded numbers

CASSR name	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (30 or more hours per week)*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed (less than 30 hours per week)[3]*	*Working as a paid employee or self-employed and in unpaid voluntary work[4]*	*In unpaid voluntary work only*
Torbay	0	15	0	25

[1] The information provided is derived from data collected annually on social services Adult Social Care-Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR) from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs).

[2] The information provided is the employment status of the service user at the time of their latest assessment or review and covers the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

[3] This column includes clients who work regularly as a paid employee or are self-employed but who work less than weekly.

[4] Clients counted in this column should also appear in one of the first two columns, according to the number of hours they work per week.

[5] Data are not available.

Source:

ASC-CAR Table L1

Learning Disability: Finance

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on adult learning disability services in each local authority area since 2000. [77545]

Paul Burstow: Data on local authority expenditure on state funded care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care via the National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service online analytical processing tool.

A table has been placed in the Library that shows the gross current expenditure by councils with adult social services responsibilities on adults aged 18 to 64 with learning disabilities as their primary client group between 2000-01 and 2009-10.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with a learning disability who are partially purchasing their own care packages. [77481]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of people with a learning disability who are partially purchasing their own care packages are not collected centrally.

However, the number who meet the entire cost of their own services where the assessment and care management is done at the expense of the Council with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSR) and the number of adults receiving services that are funded fully or in part by CASSRs is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care via the National Adult Social Care Intelligence Service online analytical processing tool.

The following table shows the number of adults with a learning disability who are receiving services funded fully or in part by CASSRs during 2009-10, by age group.

Rounded numbers

England	*All ages*	*Adults aged 18-64*	*Adults aged 65 and over*
Barking and Dagenham	430	400	35
Barnet	825	745	80
Barnsley	595	540	55
Bath and North East Somerset	420	385	35
Bedford	475	435	40
Bexley	415	375	40
Birmingham	3,490	3,215	275
Blackburn with Darwen	370	320	50
Blackpool	465	420	45
Bolton	665	605	60
Bournemouth	510	455	55
Bracknell Forest	315	285	35
Bradford	1,855	1,700	155
Brent	610	575	35
Brighton and Hove	800	720	80
Bristol	1,165	970	195
Bromley	955	850	105
Buckinghamshire	1,310	1,240	70
Bury	465	415	45
Calderdale	660	620	45
Cambridgeshire	1,550	1,435	110
Camden	425	385	40
Central Bedfordshire	495	460	35
Cheshire East	965	855	105
Cheshire West and Chester	910	855	55
City of London	15	15	0
Cornwall	2,365	2,160	205
Coventry	780	755	25
Croydon	965	905	60
Cumbria	1,420	1,255	165
Darlington	315	265	50
Derby	610	520	90
Derbyshire	1,895	1,690	205
Devon	2,140	1,815	325
Doncaster	825	725	100
Dorset	905	840	70
Dudley	945	850	95
Durham	1,895	1,730	165
Ealing	710	655	55
East Riding of Yorkshire	895	770	125
East Sussex	1,485	1,310	175
Enfield	830	750	80
Essex	3,830	3,450	385
Gateshead	480	420	55
Gloucestershire	1,940	1,760	180
Greenwich	570	550	20
Hackney	615	580	35
Halton	380	350	30
Hammersmith and Fulham	370	310	60
Hampshire	3,220	3,030	190

			Rounded numbers
England	*All ages*	*Adults aged 18-64*	*Adults aged 65 and over*
Haringey	615	570	45
Harrow	485	445	45
Hartlepool	325	290	35
Havering	430	400	30
Herefordshire	545	480	65
Hertfordshire	3,025	2,735	290
Hillingdon	485	455	30
Hounslow	560	510	45
Isle of Wight	455	410	45
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Islington	490	445	50
Kensington and Chelsea	305	265	40
Kent	3,850	3,545	305
Kingston upon Hull	565	500	65
Kingston upon Thames	335	300	40
Kirklees	1,185	1,085	100
Knowsley	630	595	35
Lambeth	730	690	40
Lancashire	3,475	3,140	335
Leeds	1,790	1,595	195
Leicester	960	870	90
Leicestershire	1,390	1,255	140
Lewisham	625	575	50
Lincolnshire	1,810	1,640	170
Liverpool	1,780	1,575	200
Luton	515	490	25
Manchester	1,680	1,540	135
Medway Towns	640	580	55
Merton	395	370	20
Middlesbrough	625	570	55
Milton Keynes	490	470	25
Newcastle upon Tyne	845	770	75
Newham	680	630	45
Norfolk	2,270	2,015	255
North East Lincolnshire	475	425	50
North Lincolnshire	400	370	30
North Somerset	510	410	95
North Tyneside	480	445	30
North Yorkshire'	1,580	1,420	160
Northamptonshire	1,535	1,385	150
Northumberland	1,390	1,220	170
Nottingham	720	655	65
Nottinghamshire	2,330	2,180	150
Oldham	640	570	70
Oxfordshire	1,420	1,250	170
Peterborough	495	470	25
Plymouth	945	895	50
Poole	450	435	15
Portsmouth	520	475	40
Reading	465	420	45
Redbridge	595	545	50
Redcar and Cleveland	475	450	25
Richmond upon Thames	370	325	40
Rochdale	655	595	60
Rotherham	750	685	65
Rutland	80	65	15
Salford	710	615	95
Sandwell	765	660	105
Sefton	820	730	90
Sheffield	1,425	1,280	145
Shropshire	865	790	70
Slough	340	320	15
Solihull	545	490	55
Somerset	1,665	1,525	140
South Gloucestershire	945	765	180
South Tyneside	545	485	60
Southampton	680	615	65
Southend-on-Sea	620	555	65
Southwark	530	485	45
St Helens	355	325	30
Staffordshire	1,925	1,755	170
Stockport	775	720	55
Stockton-on-Tees	505	500	10
Stoke-on-Trent	790	695	95
Suffolk	1,615	1,430	190
Sunderland	750	705	45
Surrey	[1]—	2,530	[1]—
Sutton	690	610	85
Swindon	605	545	60
Tameside	745	690	55
Telford and the Wrekin	425	400	25
Thurrock	270	240	25
Torbay	420	365	55
Tower Hamlets	625	570	55
Trafford	540	490	50
Wakefield	880	790	90
Walsall	720	625	95
Waltham Forest	560	515	45
Wandsworth	730	645	85
Warrington	475	430	45
Warwickshire	1,065	950	115
West Berkshire	390	365	30
West Sussex	2,025	1,905	120
Westminster	550	490	55
Wigan	865	765	95
Wiltshire	1,105	990	115
Windsor and Maidenhead	370	350	20
Wirral	895	810	85
Wokingham	425	405	25
Wolverhampton	585	525	60
Worcestershire	1,550	1,450	100
York	490	445	50

[1] Data not available.

Notes:

1. The information provided is derived from data collected annually on the social services Referrals, Assessment and Packages of Care (RAP) Return from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs).

2. The information provided includes all clients whose Primary Client Type is "Learning Disabilities". In some councils each client has an overarching client classification, but may receive a different classification for a specific assessment, in these circumstances the overarching client type is used for the data collection. Data are not collected centrally for secondary classifications, thus clients with learning disabilities as a secondary classification will not be included in these figures.

Source:

RAP P1

Passive Smoking: Children

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to evaluate the effectiveness in changing behaviour of his national strategy to raise awareness amongst parents of the dangers of smoking around children in family cars. [77523]

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to evaluate the effectiveness in changing behaviour of his national strategy to raise awareness amongst parents of the dangers of smoking around children in family cars. [78146]

Anne Milton: As set out in the Tobacco Control Plan for England, the Department will launch a marketing campaign to remind smokers of the harms of second-hand smoke and to encourage them to make their homes and cars smokefree. This campaign is in the early stages of development and is expected to launch in March 2012.

The tobacco marketing strategy, to be published shortly, will set out further details of how we will support efforts by local areas to encourage smokefree homes and cars ahead of the smokefree campaign. As with all Government communication and marketing campaigns, plans will be developed to evaluate its impact.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of his Department's study on standardising primary care support services. [77391]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no departmental study on standardising primary care support services.

However, subject to the passage of legislation, the commissioning of primary care services will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board from April 2013 and, as such, work is on-going to develop options on how the related functions could be discharged.

One aspect of this work is the development of proposals for the discharge of primary care support functions. It is the intention to publish the outcomes of the development work in due course.

Primary Care Trusts: South-west England

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what visits South West Strategic Health Authority staff have made to primary care support service offices in *(a)* Exeter and *(b)* the south-west for the purposes of assessing the quality and efficiency of their work. [77386]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the national health service locally. However, the South of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) (formerly know as South West SHA) has advised that none of its staff have visited primary care support service offices to assess the quality and efficiency of their work as this is already managed and assessed by primary care trusts locally, which will already have the necessary information and assurance.

While the SHA has facilitated regional discussions, all decisions will be made locally by primary care trust boards.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what communication there has been between the commercial department of his Department and primary care trusts in the south-west on the bid by NHS Shared Business Service to operate primary care support services; and if he will publish it; [77244]

(2) what role *(a)* his Department, *(b)* strategic health authorities and *(c)* primary care trust boards will have in taking the final decisions on the contract for primary care support services in the south-west; [77245]

(3) what representations he has received from GPs and other primary care professionals on the future of primary care support services in the south-west; [77246]

(4) what assessment he has made of the performance of NHS Shared Business Services in supporting NHS primary care; [77248]

(5) what assessment he has made of the bid from NHS Shared Business Services to operate primary care support services in the South West strategic health authority region; [77251]

(6) what assessment he has made of the performance of in-house primary care support services in the South West strategic health authority region; [77252]

(7) what comparative assessment he has made of the performance of Devon primary care support services relative to other such services in England; [77253]

(8) what account has been taken of potential redundancy costs in considering the bid by NHS Shared Business Services to operate primary care support services in the south-west; [77387]

(9) how many jobs would be transferred to India under the proposal by NHS Shared Business Services to operate primary care support services in the south-west; [77388]

(10) what consideration he gives to potential economic and social effects of job losses and outsourcing when considering the cost-benefit analysis of contracting primary care support services; [77389]

(11) which body would be responsible for providing the services provided by the existing primary care support services in the south-west which are not included in the draft contract with NHS Shared Business Services. [77390]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not undertaken a separate assessment of the performance of in-house primary care support services in the South West strategic health authority (SHA) region.

A letter was issued from the commercial director of the Department of Health to commissioners in Wiltshire primary care trust (PCT), Bristol PCT, Gloucestershire PCT, Devon PCT, Somerset PCT, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly PCT and Dorset PCT. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_102394

In addition, a letter was issued from the commercial director to Jeff James, chief executive of NHS Wiltshire, on 3 August 2011 and a copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

SHAs are required to submit contracts for primary care support services in the south-west for approval by the Department where there is a capital expenditure in excess of £35 million. Equivalent arrangements between PCTs and SHAs will be for local determination.

A search of the Department's ministerial correspondence database has identified one item of correspondence from general practitioners and other primary care professionals received since 1 January 2011 about the future of primary care support services in the south-west. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team.

A separate assessment has not been carried out by the Department on the performance of NHS Shared Business Services (SBS) in supporting national health service primary care. However, as shareholder in NHS SBS the Department requires NHS SBS to undertake annual benchmarking of performance to all NHS customers.

The Department has not undertaken a separate assessment of the bid from NHS SBS to operate primary care support services in the South West SHA region.

The Department has not undertaken a separate assessment of the performance of in-house primary care support services in the South West SHA authority region.

Information on potential redundancy costs in considering the bid by NHS SBS to operate primary care support services in the south-west is not held centrally.

Information on the number of jobs that may be transferred to India under the proposal by NHS SBS to operate primary care support services in the south-west is not held centrally.

The Department has not done a cost-benefit analysis of contracting primary care support services, because local NHS organisations are responsible for decisions on the arrangements for these services.

It is the responsibility of local NHS organisations in the south-west to determine which local bodies are responsible for the delivery of support services.

South West Strategic Health Authority: India

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent visits staff of the South West Strategic Health Authority have made to India; and what the purpose was of each visit. [77254]

Mr Simon Burns: We have been advised by the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) that Bill Shields, Director of Finance for South West SHA, visited the NHS Shared Business Services (SBS) offshore operations in India for the period 6 to 9 April 2010. The visit was an opportunity to gain assurance around NHS SBS offshore security and data handling arrangements. The SHA has further advised that the cost of the trip was borne by SBS. We understand that the above information is already in the public domain.

Surgery: Tees Valley

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many planned operations have been cancelled by hospitals in Teesside in the last 12 months. [77258]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not centrally held in the format requested. Data on the number of elective operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons between quarter two, 2010-11 and quarter one, 2011-12 for acute national health service trusts in Teesside are shown in the following table.

		2010-11		*2011-12*
Organisation name	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*
South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	114	139	130	104
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	46	45	45	31

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

Waiting Lists: Ashton-under-Lyne

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waited over six months for NHS treatment in Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in each year since 1997. [77393]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of patients waiting over six months for in-patient admission at the primary care trusts (PCTs) and heath authorities (HAs) covering the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency from March 1997 to March 2010 is shown in the following table.

Number of patients still waiting over six months at month end

As at March each year	*Oldham PCT*	*Tameside and Glossop PCT*	*West Pennine HA*
1997	—	—	3,490
1998	—	—	3,829
1999	—	—	2,348
2000	—	—	2,236
2001	—	—	1,939
2002	—	—	1,940
2003	801	763	—
2004	398	177	—
2005	193	45	—
2006	0	0	—
2007	0	0	—
2008	0	0	—
2009	0	0	—
2010	0	1	—

Notes:
1. Since 2006, figures reflect number of patients waiting over 26 weeks.
2. Data on in-patient waiting lists not collected after March 2010.
3. Due to boundary changes in 2006 West Pennine HA became Oldham PCT and Tameside and Glossop PCT
Source:
Department of Health KH07, monthly monitoring return.

Information on the number of patients waiting over six months for first out-patient appointment following general practitioner referral at the PCTs and HAs covering the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency from March 1997 to March 2010 is shown in the following table.

Number of patients still waiting over 26 weeks at month end

Month ending	*Oldham PCT*	*Tameside and Glossop PCT*	*West Pennine HA*
June 1997	—	—	600
March 1998	—	—	1,101
March 1999	—	—	2,749
March 2000	—	—	1,133
March 2001	—	—	449
March 2002	—	—	0
March 2003	0	0	—
March 2004	0	0	—
March 2005	0	0	—
March 2006	0	0	—
March 2007	n/a	n/a	—
March 2008	n/a	n/a	—

Number of patients still waiting over 26 weeks at month end

Month ending	*Oldham PCT*	*Tameside and Glossop PCT*	*West Pennine HA*
March 2009	n/a	n/a	—
March 2010	n/a	n/a	—

Notes:
1. Data on out-patient waiting lists not collected after March 2010.
2. Number waiting over 26 weeks not available after March 2006.
Source:
Department of Health QM08

In addition, since 2007, waiting times on a referral to treatment (RTT) basis have been published. Information on the number of patients who waited over 26 weeks on an admitted RTT pathway at PCTs and HAs covering the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in each year between 2008 and 2011 is shown in the following table.

Number of admitted patients who waited 26 weeks or more from RTT

Financial year	*Oldham PCT*	*Tameside and Glossop PCT*
2008-09	1,204	1,200
2009-10	1,034	942
2010-11	1,696	1,224

Note:
Data shown for whole financial year.
Source:
Department of Health RTT return

Information on the number of patients who waited over 26 weeks on a non-admitted RTT pathway at PCTs and HAs covering the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in each year between 2008 and 2011 is shown in the following table.

Number of non-admitted patients who waited 26 weeks or more from RTT

Financial year	*Oldham PCT*	*Tameside and Glossop PCT*
2008-09	2,336	3,712
2009-10	960	2,090
2010-11	1,292	2,254

Note:
Data shown for whole financial year.
Source:
Department of Health RTT return

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter of 30 September 2011 from the right hon. Member for Exeter on the future of primary care support services in Devon. [77247]

Mr Simon Burns: A reply was issued to the right hon. Gentleman on 25 October 2011.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of an arm's length approach to Arts Council England's funding; and what steps he has taken to ensure value for money in the funding of arts organisations since May 2010. [78029]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), and I reviewed the work of Arts Council England (ACE) at the time of the spending review, and as part of our review of the Department's arm's length bodies. We remain committed to an arm's length approach to ACE's funding. We will be publishing the findings from that review shortly as part of the triennial review of ACE.

The Management Statement and Financial Memorandum produced by the Department sets out a clear responsibility for ACE to ensure best value for money. The Department participates fully in Parliament's scrutiny of ACE's responsibility. The National Audit Office has access to ACE's books and records for the purposes of examining the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which ACE has used its resources; and ACE's Accounting Officer gives evidence when summoned to appear before the Public Accounts Committee on the use and stewardship of public funds by ACE.

Culture

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites there are in each region of England. [78021]

Mr Vaizey: Information on the number of regional theatres, museums and galleries (combined) and heritage sites in England in 2008 can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/PhysicalAssets.xls

More recent data will be published at end of this year, and copies will be deposited in the House Libraries.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people are employed in *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites in each of the regions of England. [78022]

Mr Vaizey: Information on the number of employees in museums, heritage and creative industries in each of the regions of England, up to 2009 can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/
CASEEconomicPerformanceData_3.xls

Art galleries and theatres are included in creative industries.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77407]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, two memory sticks, three BlackBerrys and one mobile phone have been lost.

If a mobile phone or BlackBerry device is lost or stolen, staff are required to report it immediately so that it can be disabled remotely. Staff can use only Department-issued encrypted memory sticks to carry departmental information.

Design: Procurement

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to reduce administrative burdens for design companies competing for public sector contracts. [78028]

John Penrose: While the process of bidding for public sector contracts will involve some administrative costs for both the public sector organisation and potential bidders, a number of new initiatives have been put in place. Firstly, all public sector opportunities can be found in one central place, Contracts Finder, which went live in January 2011. Also the Department has removed the need to undertake lengthy pre-qualification questionnaires for projects under £100,000, which has shortened the procurement process, thus reducing the administrative and cost burden incurred by the supplier.

The public sector as a whole is also looking to shorten the time taken to conduct *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) tenders, with a number of measures being considered at present to make the procurement process more effective and efficient. One of these is to conduct earlier market engagement before the procurement process even starts in order to help shape actual requirements, which lead to better drafted statement of requirements, that are outcome based, thus providing a clearer idea to suppliers about what is actually required.

CABINET OFFICE

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77501]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The Cabinet Office collates and publishes statistical work force management information, including data on full-time equivalent staff employed on consultancy contracts at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/cabinet-office-payroll-costs-non-consolidated-pay

As at 30 September 2011, 1.25 full-time equivalent staff were employed on consultancy contracts in the Cabinet Office.

Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77858]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office employs FCO Services (a trading fund within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) to undertake the field inquiries and the processing of all its national security vetting work.

PRIME MINISTER

Repatriation

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister which powers he plans to repatriate from the EU to the UK Parliament by 2015. [77567]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on *The Andrew Marr Show* on 30 October 2011. A transcript of the interview can be found on the BBC website:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/andrew_marr_show/9627898.stm

UK Trade with EU: India

Mr Davidson: To ask the Prime Minister which companies were represented on the UK trade delegation which he led to India in July 2010. [77785]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr Weir) on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 739W.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have been deployed in each military action in which the UK has been involved in each of the last 10 years. [72821]

Peter Luff: The term 'military action' has been understood as combat operations for the purpose of answering this question. UK armed forces have contributed to other activities around the world including humanitarian relief; non-combatant evacuation operations; and peace support under either national tasking or UN auspices.

As of 31 August 2011, approximately 109,000 past and present members of the UK Armed Forces were identified as having been deployed to Afghanistan since the operation began in 2001. A more detailed breakdown is provided in the following table:

	Number
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2007 (53.5 months)	28,550
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	25,950
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	31,570
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	38,630
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	41,090
1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011 (five months)	23,400

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

The figures do not include personnel who deployed to Afghanistan between 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 and for which data are not available, although the numbers were low during this period.

As of 31 August 2011, approximately 142,000 past and present members of the UK armed forces were identified as having been deployed to Iraq since the operation began in 2003. A more detailed breakdown is provided in the following table:

	Number
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2007 (48 months)	126,000
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	21,920
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	18,010
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	5,200
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	520

	Number
1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011 (five months)	190

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. "Combat" operations ceased on 31 July 2009.

These figures exclude personnel who are deployed to posts supporting these operations which are not geographically located within Afghanistan and Iraq.

Individuals are only recorded once per financial year per country, however totals include personnel who deployed to both operational theatres in the same financial year. As a number of individuals have deployed more than once, the total numbers deployed will be less than the sum of the individual years.

The figures used in this response have been provided by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA). Due to ongoing validation work, the data provided are provisional.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many serving personnel of each rank have been deployed in the recruitment of new personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [77182]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of recruitment for new personnel for the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [77185]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table:

					Headcount
		Total	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*
Service personnel					
OF6/1*	Commodore, Air Commodore, Brigadier or equivalent	2	0	2	0
OF5	Capt (RN), Colonel, Gp Capt or equivalent	10	3	5	2
OF4	Cdr, Lt Colonel, Wg Cdr or equivalent	42	4	22	16
OF3	Lt Cdr, Major, Sqn Ldr or equivalent	167	21	105	41
OF2	Lt (RN), Captain, Flt Lt or equivalent	193	43	81	69
OF1	Sub Lt, ~~2Lt,~~ Fg Off/ ~~Pilot Off~~ or equivalent	30	1	29	0
		—	0	0	0
OR9	WO1, Warrant Officer or equivalent	44	24	15	5
OR8	WO2, C/Tech or equivalent	115	5	106	4
OR7	Chief Petty Off/ CSgt/FS or equivalent	195	68	111	16
OR6	Petty Off/Sgt or equivalent	545	96	315	134
OR4	Leading Rate/Cpl	362	44	110	208
OR3	Able Rate/JT/LCpl or equivalent	46	2	44	0
OR2	Ordinary Rate/Private/ SAC or equivalent	275	28	232	15
MOD civilians					
	Band B2	1	1	0	0
	Band C1	34	1	32	1
	Band C2	24	3	17	4
	Band D	36	1	28	7
	Band E1	336	46	237	53
	Band E2	153	4	93	56
	Civilian medical practitioner	1	0	0	1
	Medical technical officer 4	11	0	10	1
	Military support function (band C1).	6	0	0	6
	Military support function (band C2)	6	3	0	3
	Military support function (band D)	4	0	0	4
	Retired officer 3	1	1	0	0
	Youth worker	1	1	0	0
	Senior information officer	1	0	0	1
	Senior optometrist	2	0	0	2
		—	0	0	0
	Skill zone 1	10	0	8	2
	Skill zone 2	14	1	13	0
	Skill zone 3	8	2	6	0
	Skill zone 4	0	0	0	0
	Total	2,675	403	1,621	651

The Ministry of Defence has recently undertaken a project to ascertain the full cost of regular and reserve recruiting and selection in financial year 2009-10. This includes all costs and manpower associated with recruiting and pre-joining activities, defined as all personnel who spend at least 25% of their working time engaged in recruiting activities in support of recruiting whether in recruitment centres, headquarters, advertising and marketing, or in the administration of such institutions as Welbeck college and the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme.

In financial year 2009-10 the cost of all recruiting activities and in support to recruiting was some £232 million.

Comparable information for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Work is under way to improve efficiency and ways of working in the area of recruitment and selection, including the Department's Recruiting Partnership Programme and steps to rationalise marketing activity.

British Army Training Unit Suffield

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what improvements have been made to the British Army Training Unit Suffield in each of the last five years. [77241]

Peter Luff: The following infrastructure improvements have been made to the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) over the last five full financial years, many of which have been provided under a cost-sharing agreement with the Canadian Government:

Financial year	*Infrastructure improvement*
2006-07	Range Maintenance Shed Upgrade Facility
2006-07	Ammunition Infrastructure upgrades
2006-07	Base wide water mains replacement
2007-08	Re-skin Sprung Shelter
2007-08	Pump House River Bank Stabilisation
2007-08	Electrical Distribution Upgrades to Force Maintenance Area
2007-08	Electrical Distribution Upgrades to Base Administration Area
2007-08	Upgrade Hussar Trail between Wild Horse and Seven Mile Circle (Phase 1)
2007-08	Extend Base Security Fence
2007-08	Replace Gas Line on Dieppe Drive
2007-08	Replace sewer line to Ralston Lift Station
2007-08	Exercise Control Flight Facility Upgrade (Phase 1)
2008-09	Upgrade Hussar Trail between Wild Horse and Seven Mile Circle (Phase 2)
2008-09	Replace sanitary sewers to Canadian Forces Base Headquarters and Range Maintenance Shed
2008-09	Exercise Control Fit Facility Upgrade (Phase 2)
2009-10	Replace base wide sewer lines
2009-10	Construct Additional Storage Buildings for BATUS
2010-11	Fire Inspection upgrades
2010-11	Drill New Water well (Phase 1)
2010-11	Install accommodation and Kitchen facilities at EXCON
2010-11	Construct two new storage buildings for BATUS Engineer Park
2010-11	Construct new Defence Information Infrastructure Server Centre
2010-11	Install 25 KVA electrical power cable to admin area

In addition to this, a number of routine improvements have been made to service families accommodation in BATUS over the last five years.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73673]

Mr Philip Hammond: On 17 November 2010 the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), and the Chief of the Defence Staff co-hosted the Defence Council Reception at Lancaster House.

This annual event provides an opportunity for the London-based Commonwealth defence and service advisers and defence and service attachés of non-Commonwealth countries to meet the Secretary of State, Chief of Defence Staff, Defence Council members, and other senior figures in the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Approximately 300 guests attended and the cost to the MOD was £12,110.67.

On 22 August 2011 the then Secretary of State hosted the Canadian Defence Minister and his wife for dinner. The cost to the MOD was £241.88.

No other events have been hosted at the expense of the MOD in the last 12 months.

Departmental Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74914]

Mr Robathan: The total monetary value of London weighting allowance paid to civilian staff employed by the Ministry of Defence (excluding trading funds), based on annual rates in payment as at 17 October 2011 was £10,950,136. The number of staff in receipt of London allowances was 4,908.

No additional London living allowances are paid although the Department does have London rates of base pay which are either 4% or 7% higher, dependent on grade, than rates paid to staff employed outside London.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors he plans to take into account when deciding on future staffing levels for the Ministry of Defence Police. [76905]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 176W, to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell).

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security and policing role of the Ministry of Defence Police; and if he will make a statement. [76906]

Mr Robathan: A range of options that will determine the future role of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police is currently under consideration. No final decisions have yet been taken, pending the outcome of formal consultation with the relevant staff associations and trade unions. However, the future role of the MOD Police will focus on the specialist areas of policing at which the force excels, and which are not readily available from Home Department police forces.

EDUCATION

Children: Behaviour

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the behaviour of children of long-term early years neglect; and what estimate he has made of the cost of dealing with the impact of such behaviour across their lifetime. [76478]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The Department for Education has jointly funded with the Department of Health a programme of research as part of the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative. This comprises 12 major research studies which aim to support improvements in the early recognition of neglect and abuse.

Key findings from research on the impact of neglect, summarised in the forthcoming overview of studies in the Initiative 'Safeguarding Children Across Services: Messages from research on identifying and responding to child maltreatment', show that neglect can have serious long-term effects on children's cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioural development. The stage of life at which a child experiences neglectful parenting is important, as is the duration of the experience.

Neglectful parenting can have an impact on early attachment and subsequent development. Children who receive care which is unpredictable, rejecting or insensitive are more likely to develop attachments which are less secure. Children who have experienced neglectful parenting may have poorer emotional knowledge and be less able to discriminate between different kinds of emotions.

Long-term neglect in the early years is linked with conduct disorder, eating disorders, attempted and actual suicide, substance misuse, aggression and violent behaviour. Lack of stimulation in early childhood can result in delayed speech and language problems. The consequences of neglect are also known to extend to physical and mental health and to persist into adult life.

A neglected child's system of response to stress develops abnormally and this in turn results in increased vulnerability to a range of psychological, emotional and physical health problems throughout the lifespan.

Both structural and functional abnormalities are found in neglected children's brains. Changes in the areas of the brain that are concerned with emotional life and its regulation (physical, behavioural, emotional and attachment systems) have potentially highly damaging and long-term effects for those suffering neglect.

The Department does not have an estimate of the cost of dealing with the impact of behaviour of children of long-term early years neglect.

Children: Corporal Punishment

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on legislation on the smacking of children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales; and if he will make a statement. [75770]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education (DFE) has lead responsibility for this policy area.

DFE Ministers have discussed legislation on the smacking of children. The Government have no plans to introduce legislation to ban parents in England and Wales from smacking their children. They do not wish to criminalise parents for administering a mild smack. The Government's approach is to encourage the provision of evidence-based parenting programmes that promote alternatives to physical punishment to manage children's behaviour.

Children: Local Authorities

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he has given to local authorities on determining whether it is reasonable to place a child outside of the local authority's area under section 22C of the Children Act 1989. [75652]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* Statutory guidance issued under the Children Act 1989 (Care Planning, Placement and Case Review. March 2010), sets out the specified factors which must be taken into account when decisions are made to place a looked-after-child out of the area of the responsible authority. These include that the placement is the most appropriate placement for the child and will meet the child's needs set out in the care plan.

Child Protection

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that his Department's revised Working Together guidance strengthens the process for assessing chronic child neglect. [75336]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that his Department's revised Working Together guidance strengthens the process for assessing chronic child neglect; and if he will make a statement. [75723]

Tim Loughton: The Government response to Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection committed to revising the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" and the "Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families" by July 2012. The Government also committed to making an interim amendment (on time scales, removing distinction between initial and core assessments and articulating the parameters for good assessment) by December 2011, subject to evidence emerging from trial authorities which are testing a more flexible approach to assessment.

Professor Munro stressed the importance of making a proportionate assessment that delivers an accurate understanding of a child's needs and circumstances in order to inform effective planning and the delivery of early help services. The Government are committed to building on these principles which are being tested by the trial authorities. The findings from these trials will be used to inform, develop and strengthen the revised Working Together guidance on assessment. These changes seek to give greater autonomy to front line social workers and focus on allowing more flexible time scales for assessment so that social workers can exercise their professional judgment more effectively to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes his Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72700]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department currently uses a jointly negotiated air travel booking contract together with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Home Office, using terms and conditions from a Government Procurement Service framework agreement. The travel management company providing travel booking services is Carlson Wagonlit UK Ltd. A new government-wide contract will be available shortly and the Department has indicated the intention to join it when available.

(b) The Department provides advice on its intranet web pages which describes the policy that staff should always consider alternatives to travel such as video conferencing.

(c) Carlson Wagonlit UK consultants have access to a variety of airline fares and deals including specially negotiated public sector air fares, low cost internet airlines and Carlson Wagonlit UK negotiated fares which offer additional savings from standard published rates.

Upon receipt of the booking request, Carlson Wagonlit UK consultants search all the available fare types for the specific route and advise the client of the available options. This ensures the Department is able to benefit from all fare options and to maximise savings.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74992]

Tim Loughton: Since 2 November 2009 the Department for Education has contracted with the Department for Work and Pensions shared services for the provision of corporate and transactional services. This includes the receipt, processing and settlement of commercial invoices.

During period April to September 2011

The full cost of processing the payment of an invoice electronically is £0.45, and manually £3.32.

The proportion of invoices settled electronically was 98.46% and 1.54% were paid by cheque.

Special Advisers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many people his Department has employed directly who were previously political appointees since May 2010; [70431]

(2) in what capacity Mr Dominic Cummings is employed by his Department; [70497]

(3) for how long Dominic Cummings was concurrently employed by his Department and receiving payments from the New Schools Network; [70745]

(4) between what dates his Department employed Dominic Cummings. [70816]

Tim Loughton *[holding answers 7 and 8 September 2011]:* Since May 2010 the Department for Education has employed five people who were previously political appointees.

Dominic Cummings is employed as a special adviser to the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove). He joined the Department on 21 February 2011 and was never concurrently employed by the Department for Education and receiving payments from the New Schools Network.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* full- and *(b)* part-time staff his Department employed in each year since 1997. [74600]

Tim Loughton: Information from 2007 for the Department and its predecessor, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, is set out in the following table:

Department	*Date*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Department for Children, Schools and Families	31 July 2007	2,473	457	2,930
	31 March 2008	2,353	440	2,793
	31 March 2009	2,406	436	2,842
	31 March 2010	2,265	426	2,691
Department for Education	31 March 2011	2,178	408	2,586

Information for part-time staff in the predecessor Departments before 2007 and covering the remainder of the period cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost. Similar information for full time staff in the predecessor Departments is published in archive records at the civil service and Office for National Statistics websites:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110426084705/
http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=civil+service+statistics

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many full-time equivalent staff of his Department are employed to work directly on safeguarding children. [75391]

Tim Loughton: As at 17 October 2011, the Department for Education's Safeguarding Group had 76.28 full-time equivalent staff in post. This figure does not include staff working in other parts of the Department, or in arm's length bodies, who may have safeguarding policy responsibilities within their wider roles. The figure may be subject to slight fluctuations over time.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73121]

Tim Loughton: The Department has spent the following on new furnishings in the past 12 months:

	£
Furniture for reasonable adjustments (workstation assessments)	5,142
Office furniture	19,081

	£
Replacement carpet	647
Total	24,870

The Department has recently re-used 200 desks from another Department for the set-up of the Standards and Testing Agency, avoiding about £100,000 of expenditure on new furnishings.

For background information, the following table provides details of expenditure on furnishings for previous financial years.

	Total new furnishings[1] (£)	*New vehicles*
2007/08	1,657,739	0
2008/09	764,246	0
2009/10	125,978	0

[1] Desk, chairs, carpets, blinds and curtains.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76359]

Tim Loughton: The Legal Adviser's Office is the legal section within the Department for Education. It is the function of the Legal Adviser's Office to provide legal advice to Ministers and policy officials, and this is the work in which its lawyers are engaged every day, It is not therefore possible to quantify the number of times that legal advice has been provided to Ministers in any given period.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many times his Department has sought advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76362]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education is aware of 12 matters on which it has directly sought advice from external counsel during the first six months of 2011. It does not include matters on which the Treasury Solicitor, acting on behalf of the Department in litigation, has sought advice from external counsel.

The Department does not keep a central record of each time external counsel is instructed, so to provide accurate information on the number of times that counsel has been instructed in previous years could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Youth Services

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each local authority in England reported in their Section 251 financial returns as their *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* outturn expenditure for 2010-11 in respect of (i) Youth Work, (ii) Connexions and (iii) all provision of activities for young people; and if he will make a statement. [75426]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* Section 251 financial returns showing outturn spend in 2010-11 will be published later this financial year. The amounts individual local authorities budgeted to spend on (i) Youth Work; (ii) Connexions and (iii) all provision of activities for young people in 2010-11 may be found in the following table.

There is significant variation in the amounts shown under each category which may reflect different interpretations of the guidance on completing the returns. The Department has commissioned a full review of how the data is collected, what it is used for, and of quality assurance.

Decisions on levels of spending on services for young people are for local authorities to make. The Government encourages local authorities to invest in evidence-based early intervention strategies to improve outcomes for disadvantaged young people, and to avoid reductions likely to lead to higher costs in future years.

Planned gross spend on youth services 2010-11

LA Ref	*Top tier local authority*	*(i) youth work*	*(ii) Connexions*	*(iii) All provision of activities for young people[1]*
201	City of London	408,898	55,000	652,898
202	Camden	5,428,601	195,599	8,607,759
203	Greenwich	2,742,570	3,168,230	8,557,550
204	Hackney	4,861,169	2,889,550	13,142,050
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,471,361	1,475,205	4,785,620
206	Islington	813,561	2,424,798	12,066,258
207	Kensington and Chelsea	2,782,090	1,714,100	6,238,850
208	Lambeth	2,980,223	2,540,147	8,091,789
209	Lewisham	3,167,115	2,599,051	8,883,241
210	Southwark	1,761,621	1,338,270	10,398,082
211	Tower Hamlets	12,478,091	2,071,700	16,429,891
212	Wandsworth	3,009,499	2,955,691	7,415,109
213	Westminster	1,529,825	2,080,400	5,860,550
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,670,391	2,625,795	4,840,071
302	Barnet	2,540,959	1,946,972	5,630,721
303	Bexley	2,180,000	1,602,000	4,359,000
304	Brent	2,922,597	2,411,506	6,530,052
305	Bromley	1,466,476	1,830,380	4,145,941
306	Croydon	0	2,878,618	10,641,250
307	Ealing	1,769,171	3,149,718	6,840,523
308	Enfield	2,753,043	2,206,610	6,854,891

Planned gross spend on youth services 2010-11

LA Ref	*Top tier local authority*	*(i) youth work*	*(ii) Connexions*	*(iii) All provision of activities for young people*[1]
309	Haringey	2,262,169	2,188,100	4,615,943
310	Harrow	1,190,885	1,959,343	4,356,019
311	Havering	2,212,420	2,119,700	5,060,303
312	Hillingdon	5,518,400	2,765,200	8,975,500
313	Hounslow	2,224,159	2,193,099	5,711,096
314	Kingston upon Thames	770,786	979,783	3,219,666
315	Merton	1,397,301	1,392,140	3,192,531
316	Newham	6,817,600	3,477,400	13,908,378
317	Redbridge	1,601,921	2,207,534	4,968,568
318	Richmond upon Thames	1,882,135	1,118,200	3,784,154
319	Sutton	1,402,800	1,259,600	3,422,200
320	Waltham Forest	3,553,900	2,459,500	7,449,204
330	Birmingham	6,179,988	11,041,218	24,070,039
331	Coventry	4,032,990	3,245,291	8,793,570
332	Dudley	2,984,554	2,927,400	7,329,603
333	Sandwell	3,162,000	3,332,900	8,927,500
334	Solihull	0	2,207,170	4,562,015
335	Walsall	4,654,668	2,467,619	7,745,741
336	Wolverhampton	3,766,810	2,630,800	8,322,820
340	Knowsley	582,782	2,222,094	4,294,098
341	Liverpool	6,851,235	5,412,776	15,936,302
342	St. Helens	2,012,665	2,204,000	5,542,480
343	Sefton	5,659,400	2,804,102	9,472,502
344	Wirral	3,589,400	3,127,400	8,443,400
350	Bolton	1,134,100	3,080,400	7,971,700
351	Bury	1,414,159	1,703,400	3,910,407
352	Manchester	5,170,794	5,941,572	16,171,577
353	Oldham	1,927,400	0	2,944,790
354	Rochdale	2,010,321	2,456,700	5,605,645
355	Salford	2,795,274	2,576,000	7,877,215
356	Stockport	2,010,429	2,869,864	6,927,460
357	Tameside	1,962,090	2,499,110	6,129,250
358	Trafford	1,941,502	1,949,375	4,652,817
359	Wigan	2,115,965	4,116,376	8,958,539
370	Barnsley	2,913,400	2,344,670	5,809,438
371	Doncaster	3,256,276	3,485,264	7,826,198
372	Rotherham	2,601,255	2,528,066	7,004,053
373	Sheffield	5,175,501	5,371,074	16,814,023
380	Bradford	6,676,300	5,168,275	13,587,675
381	Calderdale	3,548,295	2,427,380	6,905,315
382	Kirklees	4,110,144	3,862,253	10,950,291
383	Leeds	8,490,813	8,100,735	23,174,220
384	Wakefield	4,366,221	4,085,730	9,745,673
390	Gateshead	1,391,278	1,397,224	3,441,537
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	3,516,346	3,228,180	8,359,241
392	North Tyneside	1,072,550	1,412,889	3,347,299
393	South Tyneside	2,355,053	2,150,187	5,588,360
394	Sunderland	397,916	8,339,012	13,344,370
420	Isles Of Scilly	46,169	25,000	121,169
800	Bath and North East Somerset	1,231,623	1,385,394	3,348,192
801	Bristol City of	3,841,735	3,188,205	8,717,687
802	North Somerset	62,000	1,392,000	3,085,005
803	South Gloucestershire	1,686,000	1,973,000	4,671,000
805	Hartlepool	1,562,714	1,306,614	3,116,165
806	Middlesbrough	1,947,453	2,133,585	5,127,622
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	2,795,750	5,101,148
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2,266,691	2,464,392	5,693,716
810	Kingston upon Hull City of	4,206,645	3,400,169	11,401,498
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	2,698,000	2,277,930	6,376,840
812	North East Lincolnshire	1,980,820	2,216,472	5,627,008
813	North Lincolnshire	1,605,190	1,526,930	3,985,870
815	North Yorkshire	5,403,472	4,445,927	10,734,506
816	York	2,140,071	1,396,450	4,084,780
821	Luton	2,124,875	2,153,194	5,186,013

Planned gross spend on youth services 2010-11

LA Ref	*Top tier local authority*	*(i) youth work*	*(ii) Connexions*	*(iii) All provision of activities for young people*[1]
822	Bedford Borough	1,035,275	2,379,786	3,514,972
823	Central Bedfordshire	1,365,658	2,414,843	4,162,562
825	Buckinghamshire	5,097,931	3,365,125	8,870,556
826	Milton Keynes	3,170,957	2,227,634	6,275,696
830	Derbyshire	5,899,473	5,906,203	14,206,246
831	Derby	2,588,336	2,262,411	7,120,359
835	Dorset	3,148,900	2,820,600	6,768,700
836	Poole	1,186,613	1,148,789	2,635,129
837	Bournemouth	1,966,500	1,296,000	3,835,200
840	Durham	4,115,587	5,056,150	11,770,968
841	Darlington	1,002,178	1,182,918	2,899,854
845	East Sussex	1,611,418	3,982,243	8,100,056
846	Brighton and Hove	1,252,440	2,011,490	5,161,350
850	Hampshire	6,934,900	6,893,200	16,381,600
851	Portsmouth	920,600	1,595,800	3,269,025
852	Southampton	3,406,812	0	4,164,919
855	Leicestershire	4,647,807	4,206,400	10,376,086
856	Leicester	3,772,426	3,723,400	9,268,026
857	Rutland	457,800	393,100	1,013,300
860	Staffordshire	6,265,350	6,737,109	15,116,319
861	Stoke-on-Trent	703,057	2,744,445	7,168,273
865	Wiltshire	3,396,694	3,312,783	8,345,741
866	Swindon	1,539,726	1,936,180	4,698,623
867	Bracknell Forest	1,221,070	1,066,066	2,747,019
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,252,440	1,218,850	3,102,050
869	West Berkshire	1,925,256	1,437,977	3,898,080
870	Reading	1,344,240	1,319,440	3,984,274
871	Slough	1,983,472	1,802,337	4,598,157
872	Wokingham	1,210,713	1,174,200	2,704,138
873	Cambridgeshire	3,735,813	5,011,943	9,423,407
874	Peterborough	1,145,774	1,626,379	3,581,008
876	Halton	1,168,250	1,618,540	3,544,304
877	Warrington	1,910,676	1,754,195	4,119,028
878	Devon	6,403,185	5,916,963	12,754,652
879	Plymouth	3,324,855	2,318,446	7,113,359
880	Torbay	1,326,400	983,900	3,016,780
881	Essex	17,143,297	0	20,340,878
882	Southend-on-Sea	731,500	2,302,000	3,489,100
883	Thurrock	1,300,274	1,657,326	3,108,200
884	Herefordshire	1,135,083	1,394,246	2,832,459
885	Worcestershire	10,795	3,848,515	10,137,931
886	Kent	11,460,589	13,141,891	28,259,357
887	Medway	1,976,547	2,430,553	8,378,827
888	Lancashire	11,293,962	10,111,427	26,990,353
889	Blackburn with Darwen	1,107,200	1,633,700	4,323,400
890	Blackpool	1,251,001	1,844,391	4,261,268
891	Nottinghamshire	8,663,937	6,574,440	17,479,746
892	Nottingham	1,312,764	0	6,124,743
893	Shropshire	2,272,142	2,223,670	5,677,032
894	Telford and Wrekin	1,747,233	1,398,216	3,676,871
895	Cheshire East	813,105	2,504,255	4,288,130
896	Cheshire West and Cheshire	1,208,531	2,739,897	5,005,058
908	Cornwall	4,384,377	3,085,000	8,766,289
909	Cumbria	4,008,000	4,094,000	9,160,000
916	Gloucestershire	5,477,700	4,101,300	10,105,471
919	Hertfordshire	5,436,712	7,093,372	14,541,037
921	Isle of Wight	1,231,241	1,057,465	2,874,610
925	Lincolnshire	4,216,352	5,198,881	11,257,912
926	Norfolk	5,111,942	6,391,740	13,321,323
928	Northamptonshire	2,256,702	5,149,542	8,779,420
929	Northumberland	2,289,500	3,229,750	7,110,500
931	Oxfordshire	1,140,986	4,679,857	10,209,748
933	Somerset	3,523,970	4,996,582	10,307,882
935	Suffolk	4,431,603	5,825,532	11,418,962

Planned gross spend on youth services 2010-11

LA Ref	*Top tier local authority*	*(i) youth work*	*(ii) Connexions*	*(iii) All provision of activities for young people*[1]
936	Surrey	2,688,148	6,913,632	21,124,795
937	Warwickshire	4,878,505	4,005,766	10,954,965
938	West Sussex	4,006,274	5,381,600	10,187,379
	England Total	451,153,621	446,930,841	1,180,704,500

[1] Figures for all provision of activities for young people include: youth work; positive activities; information, advice and guidance; substance misuse and teenage pregnancy reduction; and discretionary awards and student support.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77344]

Gregory Barker: The Department did not purchase any individual assets with a value of £250,000 or more during this period.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77595]

Gregory Barker: No.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010. [77346]

Gregory Barker: Details of keynote ministerial speeches are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/news/categories/Speeches/Speeches.aspx

A comprehensive list of all speaking engagements undertaken by Ministers and senior officials since May 2010 is not held centrally and to assemble the information would entail disproportionate cost.

Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77875]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77876]

Gregory Barker: The information regarding security vetting is publicly available in the booklet HMG Security controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks.

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes,

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77877]

Gregory Barker: The information regarding security vetting is publicly available in the booklet HMG Security controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks.

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The list of special advisers is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77878]

Gregory Barker: DECC complies with Cabinet Office requirements and utilises a Government approved vetting service. All DECC vetting is undertaken via a contract with FCO Services.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77879]

Gregory Barker: The DECC non-staff pass system was implemented in August 2010 and figures are available as from that date. These passes are only given to security cleared civil servants from other Government Departments who have a business requirement to visit DECC regularly in the course of their duties:

	Total number of passes
August 2010	7
September 2010	8
October 2010	9
November 2010	15
December 2010	17
January 2011	20
February 2011	22
March 2011	24
April 2011	30
May 2011	31
June 2011	49
July 2011	65
August 2011	72
September 2011	78
October 2011	81

Energy

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had any discussions on possible tariff discounts for high usage energy customers who have installed effective energy efficiency measures but are unable to reduce their usage for health or welfare reasons. [77292]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), and I have regular discussions with the energy companies about assistance for their vulnerable consumers. Under the new Warm Home Discount scheme suppliers are required to provide financial assistance to their low income, vulnerable consumers. The Government expects that around 2 million households will receive direct help each year of the scheme.

For those with potential to further improve the energy efficiency of their homes, support may be available through existing schemes such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). CERT will continue to operate until the end of 2012, at which point it will be replaced by the Government's new Green Deal programme. We will consult shortly on the design of Green Deal, including how it can best support those most in need of help to pay their energy bills.

Energy Supply

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to remove barriers that limit investment in energy intensive companies. [77193]

Gregory Barker: The Department is working with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury to develop a package of measures to assist those energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies, in order to reduce the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses.

In developing the package we aim to ensure continuing investment and for the UK to remain competitive in international markets.

Later this year, the Government will present further details of how the industrial sector can play its role in meeting the UK's carbon budgets and contribute to delivering the 2050 carbon reduction target.

Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to reduce the future rate for feed-in tariffs; what timetable he has set for any such reduction; and what the feed-in tariff rate will be in each of the next three years. [76884]

Gregory Barker: On 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), announced the start of the first comprehensive review of the Great Britain Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme.

A consultation on the first phase of the comprehensive review was launched on 31 October 2011 and proposes new tariffs for all solar photovoltaic-PV-installations with a total installed capacity of 250KW or less. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the tariffs in the following table will be introduced from 1 April 2012 for new installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 12 December 2011. No proposals have yet been made for changes to tariff rates beyond April 2012 but this will be kept under review.

Band (kW)	*Current generation tariff (p/kWh)*	*Proposed generation tariff (p/kWh)*
<4kW (new build)	37.8	21.0
<4kW (retrofit)	43.3	21.0
>4-10kW	37.8	16.8
>10-50kW	32.9	15.2
>50-100kW	19	12.9
>100-150kW	19	12.9
>150-250kW	15	12.9
>250kW-5MW	8.5	[1]8.5
stand alone	8.5	[1]8.5

[1] Note that these are the current tariffs which, like all other current tariffs, will be adjusted in line with the retail price index from 1 April 2012.

We have proposed introducing new multi-installation tariff rates, in the following table, for aggregated solar PV schemes, applying to new installations with an eligibility date after 1 April 2012.

Solar PV tariff band	*Multi-installation generation tariff (p/kWh)*
<4kW (new build)	16.8
<4kW (retrofit)	16.8
>4-10kW	13.4
>10-50kW	12.2
>50-100kW	10.3
>100-150kW	10.3
>150-250kW	10.3
>250kW-5MW	[1]8.5

Solar PV tariff band	Multi-installation generation tariff (p/kWh)
stand alone	[1]8.5

[1] Note that these are the current tariffs which, like all other current tariffs, will be adjusted in line with the retail price index from 1 April 2012.

We also propose prioritising energy efficiency by linking solar PV tariffs to specified minimum energy efficiency requirements from 1 April 2012, for new installations which are attached or wired to a building. A generator unable to demonstrate that the building meets these requirements will, after a transitional period, be eligible for a lower tariff of 9p/kWh instead of the standard tariff.

We are intending to consult on the second phase of the review of the scheme towards the end of the year. This will consider new tariffs for non-PV technologies from April 2012.

Green Deal Scheme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure small and medium-sized businesses are represented in discussions on Green Deal finance. [77667]

Gregory Barker: We are in discussion with a variety of stakeholders, including a number of small and medium size businesses and also trade associations, on all aspects of the Green Deal, including how Green Deal providers might be able to access finance.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1116W, on liquefied petroleum gas, what assessment he has made of *(a)* regional differences in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and *(b)* the extent of competition in the supply of LPG within each region. [78145]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold data on the regional differences in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The price of LPG is affected by a range of factors, including crude oil prices, refinery capacity, stock levels, distribution costs and increased demand for heating during winter.

The Competition Commission's 2006 investigation into domestic bulk LPG found that there were no distinct regional or local markets with prices being broadly similar in all regions of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, the CC did identify some features of the market that led to weak competition. As a result of its findings the CC made two orders. The Office of Fair Trading has a statutory duty to keep under review undertakings and orders following a Market Investigation Reference to the CC and consider whether these have been or are being complied with. In its recent off-grid energy market study, the OFT noted that the emerging picture on compliance with the orders is broadly positive and that the collective market shares of the big four suppliers had fallen from 90% to 85% while 10 smaller suppliers had grown their customer base by 10% or more since the orders were introduced. The OFT will keep compliance with the orders under review.

Motion-sensitive Lighting Systems

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on *(a)* carbon emissions and *(b)* energy efficiency of the introduction of mandatory motion-sensitive lighting systems in the commercial property sector. [77226]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has made no assessment of the potential energy and carbon saving effects of introducing mandatory motion-sensitive lighting systems. The Building Regulations already set minimum standards of energy efficiency when property owners choose to install or replace fixed lighting systems. Automatic controls including motion-sensitive lighting systems can be installed to help meet these efficiency standards. The Regulations were amended in 2010 to strengthen standards and an impact assessment supporting these regulations can be found on my Department's website.

Proven Energy: Finance

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department has provided to Proven Energy. [77979]

Gregory Barker: DECC officials contacted Proven's senior management team when it emerged that they had technical problems with their P35-2 wind turbine. Further conversations were held with Proven and the joint receivers prior to the sale of Proven's business and assets to Kingspan Renewbles Ltd. Officials are continuing to work closely with the industry to consider the wider issues raised by the unfortunate termination of the business.

UK Safeguards Support Programme

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessors contributed to the UK Safeguards Support Programme in each year since 2001. [77288]

Charles Hendry: The Department and its predecessors, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) have contributed the following amounts to the UK Safeguards Support Programme since 2001-02:

	£000
2001-02	746
2002-03	752
2003-04	1,046
2004-05	2,354
2005-06	1,178
2006-07	806
2007-08	761
2008-09	998
2009-10	1,149
2010-11	1,077

TREASURY

Job Creation: Private Sector

18. **Mark Menzies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to encourage job creation in the private sector. [77459]

19. **Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to encourage job creation in the private sector. [77460]

Miss Chloe Smith: At Budget 2011 the Government put in place a wide range of measures to support this, including:

Supporting business growth by aiming to create the most competitive tax system in the G20, including cutting corporation tax in April from 28% to 26%, by 2014 it will reach 23% which represents the lowest rate in the G7; and,

Helping to ensure that it always pays to work by increasing the personal allowance by £1,000 in 2011-12.

Regional Growth Fund

20. **Julie Elliott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on funding for the Regional Growth Fund. [77462]

Danny Alexander: The Government remain committed to their aim of delivering strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), and I frequently discuss such matters, including the Regional Growth Fund, with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable).

VAT

21. **Ian Murray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on consumer confidence of the recent increase in the rate of VAT. [77463]

Mr Gauke: Sustainable public finances are essential for consumer confidence.

Decisive action taken by the Government in the comprehensive spending review and June Budget, including the increase in VAT, put the public finances and Government spending on a sustainable footing. This has prevented the turmoil seen in other countries' sovereign debt markets spreading to the UK and undermining confidence and the recovery in the private sector.

National Insurance Holiday

22. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many firms have participated in the national insurance holiday for new businesses. [77464]

Mr Gauke: As of 25 October 2011, HMRC has received 8,761 successful applications for the NICs holiday. A breakdown by constituency, information on the amounts claimed and jobs supported for the first year of the scheme will be published in a Factsheet in the House of Commons Library shortly.

Valuation Office Agency

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure a consistent approach to valuation policy is taken by all offices of the Valuation Office Agency. [77420]

Mr Gauke: The basis of valuation for both council tax and non domestic rates are set out in statute and regulations to ensure the consistency of valuation assumptions and approach. Statutory Valuation and Listing Officers, employed within the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), are accountable for valuation accuracy and consistency.

The VOA publishes its policy and guidance for council tax and non domestic rates on its website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/CouncilTax/index.html

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/Publications/business.html#rating

Banking: Leverage Ratios

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Bank of England regarding the leverage ratios of British banks. [77265]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet counterparts from the Bank of England to discuss a range of issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

As part of Basel III, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision agreed to introduce a non-risk based leverage ratio to constrain the build-up of leverage in the banking sector and support the risk based capital requirements. In the EU, Basel III will be implemented through legislation on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, which the Commission adopted proposals for on 20 July 2011.

Child Trust Funds: Children in Care

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in ensuring that looked-after children continue to receive a child trust fund. [76469]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

Following the discontinuation of child trust funds, we have made good progress on work to ensure continued Government support for the long-term savings for looked-after children. I will be making more details available shortly.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the devolved Administrations regarding child trust funds for looked-after children. [76470]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

Officials at the Department for Education working on long-term savings for looked-after children have been in close discussion with their counterparts at the devolved Administrations. I expect to write to my counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland shortly with an outline of a proposed UK scheme and inviting their support.

Council Tax: Valuation

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims to reduce council tax bandings were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in each of the last three years; [77224]

(2) how many proposals for council tax rebanding have been made in the last 12 months. [77225]

Mr Gauke: Official statistics are published by the Valuation Office Agency on the number of challenges to the CT Valuation Lists and the outcomes of those challenges. The figures for England over the last three years are summarised in the following table.

England

		Of which:			
Financial year	*Total challenges settled*	*CT band reduced*	*CT band Unchanged*	*CT band increased*	*Other*[1]
2008-09	116,430	31,560	80,590	150	4,140
2009-10	82,310	21,720	58,170	80	2,340
2010-11	81,320	19,740	58,860	40	2,670

[1] Other includes challenges which result in deleted entries (e.g. demolitions), new entries (e.g. new build) and split or merged entries (e.g. conversions) on the list.

Equivalent figures for the latest two quarters in 2011-12 are shown in the following table.

England

		Of which:			
Financial year 2011-12	*Total challenges settled*	*CJ band reduced*	*CT band unchanged*	*CT band increased*	*Other*[1]
April-June	21,120	5,440	14,880	20	780
July-September	17,980	4,350	12,840	10	780

[1] Other includes challenges which result in deleted entries (e.g. demolitions), new entries (e.g. new build) and split or merged entries (e.g. conversions) on the list.

Published statistics also show that of the 39,000 challenges settled in the first two quarters of 2011-12, 26,600 (68%) were informal band reviews only, 10,800 (28%) were valid proposals and 1,600 (4%) were appealed to the Valuation Tribunal.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77330]

Miss Chloe Smith: The following items have been lost since 31 May 2010:

Items lost from the Department since 31 May 2010

Computers—seven of which six were stolen

Mobile Phones—one

BlackBerrys—14 of which two were stolen

Other IT Equipment—16 of which two were stolen

All the laptop computers involved in these losses were encrypted devices which are not accessible without a security token and two different passwords. The BlackBerry devices are also password protected.

No data loss occurred as no tokens or passwords were left with these items, and steps were taken to ensure that they provided no means of access to any of HM Treasury's IT systems.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77598]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has not received any such applications since May 2010.

EU Budget: Contributions

Mr Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net contribution was by the UK to the EU in each year from 2005 to 2010; and what estimate he has made of the contribution in each year from 2010 to 2015. [77823]

Mr Hoban: Details of the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget for the period 2004-05 to 2009-10 are set out in Table 3.2A, page 23, of European Union Finances 2010 (Cm 7978). The latest forecast of the UK's net contributions to the EU budget for the period 2010-11 to 2015-16 is set out in Table 2.16 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook of March 2011. This forecast will be updated in the autumn forecast.

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 51WS, on financial assistance (Ireland), what annual rate of interest is payable; and on what dates interest due will be paid. [76402]

Mr Hoban: The rate of interest applicable to each tranche of the bilateral loan to Ireland and the interest payment dates are set out in the Loan Agreement that I deposited in the Library of the House on 10 January 2011.

The rate of interest on each tranche of the loan is equal to the 7.5 year sterling swap rate at the time of disbursement plus a fixed margin of 229 basis points.

Following the 21 July 2011 agreement by euro area member states to reduce the interest rates applied to loans from the euro area-only European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), notified his Irish counterpart that the UK was able to cut the interest rate applied to the bilateral loan. The new rate is yet to be agreed, but the Government will update Parliament in due course.

Following the disbursement of the first tranche of the loan on 14 October, the first interest payment is due on 15 December 2011.

Thereafter interest on each disbursed tranche of the loan is payable every six months until the maturity date of each tranche.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much is owed to local authorities in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* England by Icelandic banks. [77285]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

As at 31 December 2008, local authorities in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* England had a total of £10 million and £929.2 million respectively invested in Icelandic banks.

The UK administrators of Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland Ltd, have published information on likely rates of return. Local authorities are in direct contact with these administrators. For the two failed banks in administration in Iceland, Glitnir and Landsbanki, the Icelandic Supreme Court has ruled that UK local authorities' claims have priority status.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money invested in Icelandic banks has been repaid to Kirklees metropolitan council; and how much remains to be paid. [77286]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

As at 31 December 2008 Kirklees metropolitan council had a total of £1,000,000 invested in Landsbanki. No money has been repaid yet. For the two failed banks in administration in Iceland, Glitnir and Landsbanki, the Icelandic Supreme Court has ruled that UK local authorities' claims have priority status.

Minimum Wage

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding for investigations into firms suspected of not adhering to minimum wage legislation was allocated within the HM Revenue and Customs budget for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; how much he expects to allocate in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [77332]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs' national minimum wage enforcement team were allocated:

Financial year	*£*
2009-10	8,300,000
2010-11	8,100,000
2011-12	8,295,000

The funding levels for future years have yet to be allocated.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the steps taken to increase the take-up of the national insurance holiday scheme; how much his Department has spent on steps to increase the take-up of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [76414]

Mr Gauke: To further increase take-up, HMRC has issued around 140,000 personalised letters to all businesses that have registered for a PAYE scheme since the start of the national insurance (NICs) holiday on 22 June 2010. The letters were issued between 4 and 6 October 2011 and HMRC's regional press teams have generated local publicity in eligible regions. The cost of issuing the personalised letter is £90,000.

In addition, agents are now able to apply for the NICs holiday on behalf of their clients.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have taken part in the Government's regional national insurance contributions holiday. [77239]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* As of 25 October 2011, HMRC has received 8,761 successful applications for the NICs holiday. A breakdown by constituency, information on the amounts claimed and jobs supported will be published in the NICs holiday factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Public Finance

Mr Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the size of the structural deficit. [77461]

Danny Alexander: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) latest estimates of the structural deficit were published in the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook in March. It was estimated that the cyclically-adjusted deficit for 2011-12 will be 5.3% of GDP.

Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card, what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 2 July Catering and Catering Supplies 639.60 in 2007. [76507]

Mr Gauke: The duties of HMRC staff cover a wide range of posts and some roles require overseas or domestic travel requiring accommodation in support of key departmental objectives—for example, fiscal crime liaison, EU policy development, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions and mutual administrative assistance.

The transaction relating to 2 July 2007 was categorised by the merchant category code as 'Catering & Catering supplies', however checks reveal this was for overnight B&B accommodation (UK). The name of supplier is redacted because this relates to an operationally sensitive investigation, and also to protect the safety of our officers and supplier.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card, what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 4 July Restaurants and Bars 1,010.00 in 2008. [76518]

Mr Gauke: The UK hosted a meeting of Customs delegates from EU member states and heads of unit from the European Commission to negotiate the Implementing Regulations for the Modernised Customs Code (Regulation 450/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council).

During the first part of the negotiating stage, meetings were held every six weeks and hosting was rotated on an informal basis across member states. The meetings were attended by approximately 35 delegates and the UK took its turn in hosting a meeting in Felixstowe in July 2008.

It is customary for the member state hosting the meeting to also host an evening dinner, reciprocating hospitality shown by other member states. Care is always taken to ensure costs are kept to a minimum.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average time to answer a call, *(b)* average length of a call, *(c)* average time spent on hold during a call and *(d)* proportion of calls dropped was in call centres run by HM Revenue and Customs in the last period for which figures are available. [74529]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 17 October 2011]*: The information requested for the period 1-30 September 2011 is as follows:

	September 2011
(a) Average time to answer a call	3 minutes 48 seconds
(b) Average length of a call	7 minutes 50 seconds
(c) Average time spent on hold during a call	18 seconds
(d) Proportion of calls dropped	7.5%

Service levels have significantly improved when compared with last year. In 2010-11, HMRC handled 58.4 million calls which is 48% of calls attempted. So far in 2011-12 (April to September), HMRC has handled over 31.3 million calls which is 71.9% of call attempts.

Tax Avoidance: International Co-operation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to improve the transparency of multinational corporations' accounts for the purposes of ensuring that developing countries are aware of any international tax avoidance; and if he will make a statement. [77184]

Mr Gauke: The Government are engaging with the European Commission and other member states in order to emphasise our support for requirements being placed on EU extractives companies to disclose payments made to Governments, matching the standards being set in the US.

Taxation

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of mechanisms by which UK citizens holding assets in Swiss bank accounts may avoid paying the taxes to be levied under the new rules agreed in October 2011 *(a)* prior to and *(b)* following their commencement in May 2013. [77262]

Mr Gauke: The agreement between the UK and Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters will have a strong positive effect for the UK Exchequer.

Any person failing to pay the tax will fail to benefit from the provisions of the agreement. No tax clearance will be given, and the person will still be liable to tax, interest, and significant penalties. They may also be subject to criminal investigation.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in the Swiss Government regarding the appropriate commencement date of the agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on co-operation in the area of taxation; and whether consideration was given in those discussions to the effects on revenues of commencement in May 2013. [77263]

Mr Gauke: The Government's aim is for the agreement between the UK and Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters to come into force on 1 January 2013. This allows for the time needed to complete parliamentary procedures in both countries.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK citizens with assets in Swiss banks will be liable to pay the tax to be levied under the terms of the new agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Government if they move those assets to branches of Swiss banks outside Switzerland and which fall outside the scope of the new agreement. [77264]

Mr Gauke: The agreement between the UK and Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters applies to investments in Switzerland.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Argentina: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has given to Argentina in each of the last 10 years. [77067]

Mr O'Brien: No Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral aid was given to Argentina between 2001-02 and 2010-11.

Climate Change

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to respond formally to the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Migration and Global Environmental Change. [77266]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development, as joint commissioner of this report with DEFRA, welcomes the Foresight Report on Migration and Global Environmental Change which is relevant to a number of issues of interest to the Department. This excellent and very detailed report is already informing our thinking, and will continue to do so. We do not however intend to respond formally to it as one of the joint commissioning Departments.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74945]

Mr O'Brien: Management board expenses are available on the DFID website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Management-board/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77368]

Mr Duncan: There have been no assets bought with a value of £250,000 or more by the Department for International Development since May 2010.

Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people his Department employs who are aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65. [77072]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development currently employs 198 staff aged over 55 and 10 staff aged over 65.

Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the one day challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76235]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has long recognised the value of volunteering and the vital contribution made by volunteers to development, and to local communities and charities.

At present none of our Ministers has been directly involved with activities in association with the one day challenge.

Developing Countries: Disability

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department is undertaking with local disabled people's organisations in partner countries to reduce discrimination against children with disabilities in education. [76887]

Mr O'Brien: DFID supports over 85 disabled people's organisations and civil society organisations to address the issues facing people with disabilities in poor countries. We are providing £1,350,000 to the Disability Rights Fund in support of its work during the period April 2010 to March 2013. This supports the participation of disabled people's organisations in the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at country levels.

For example in Malawi, DFID has supported approximately 700,000 children with disabilities to enter education. Through DFID support, 4,200 classrooms have been constructed and 70% of these have ramp access.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce exclusion of children with disabilities from education in developing countries. [76889]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to ensuring the inclusion of disabled people in development. Following a full review of all of the UK's aid spending, we recently published our priorities for the next four years in the document 'UK Aid: Changing Lives, Delivering Results' which can be found on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/mar/BAR-MAR-summary-document-web.pdf

The document shows how programmes to ensure that everyone has access to education, including children with disabilities, will be given priority for UK development assistance.

For example, in Bangladesh, DFID is continuing to support the BRAC Primary Education Development Programme, with the third phase due to commence in July 2011. The main focus of this is to ensure access to education for vulnerable children including children with disability.

Developing Countries: Literacy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to increase adult literacy in developing countries. [77048]

Mr O'Brien: DFID has a two strand approach to tackling adult literacy in the countries where we work: Firstly, where appropriate, the UK invests in programmes that combine adult literacy with vocational training, or that include a focus on the empowerment of marginalised groups and secondly, we prioritise quality basic education for all so that fewer children become illiterate adults.

An example of DFID's work in this area is our support to the Mahila Samakhya (Women Together) in India, a Government programme to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, including improving literacy and economic opportunities through better access to education.

East Africa: Droughts

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in the Horn of Africa affected by famine; what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the level of aid contributed; and if he will make a statement. [78024]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The current crisis in the Horn of Africa has affected approximately 18 million people. In Somalia, where famine has been officially declared, some 750,000 people face starvation before the end of the year unless they receive adequate humanitarian support.

Over the summer I have spoken with a number of my international counterparts about the crisis in the Horn. Specifically I have held discussions with the United Nation's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Amos, with Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme. In addition I have also spoken with Rav Shah from the United States Agency for International Development; Ben Knapen, the Netherlands' Development Minster; Dirk Niebel, Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden; Henri de Raincourt, France's Development Minister; and Franco Frattini, Italy's Foreign Minister.

At the Tidewater conference in July I also addressed Development Ministers and officials including Denmark's State Secretary for Development Policy, Ib Petersen; European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs; Deputy Director General and Minister of Foreign Affairs for France, George Serre; Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway, Erik Solheim; Japanese President, Sadako Ogata; President of Institute for Liberty and Democracy, Hernando de Soto; Deputy Administrator of USAID, Donald Steinberg; Secretary General of UNCTAD, Panitchpakdi Supachai; Chair of Development Assistance Committee France, Brian Atwood; Director-General of Ausaid Australia, Peter Baxter; President of CIDA Canada, Margaret Briggs; Director General of International Cooperation the Netherlands, Yoka Brandt; Vice Minister for Development Policy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Korea, Tae-Yul Cho; Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Switzerland, Martin Dahinden; Associate Administrator UNDP, Rebecca Grynspan; Secretary General OECD, Angel Gurria; State Secretary for International Development Cooperation Sweden, Anna Helquist; Political Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, Hege Hertzberg; Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Eco-Cooperation Development Germany, Gudrun Kopp; Executive Director UNICEF, Anthony Lake; Managing Director of Public Policy, Bill Gates Foundation, Geoff Lamb; and Managing Director of World Bank, Mahmoud Mohieldin; Kenyan Prime Minister, Razla Odinga, and Foreign Minister George Saitotz; Somali Government; senior officials from the United Nations (UN) including Baroness Amos of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme; Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and Tony Lake of the UN Children's Fund.

The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), have also discussed the crisis affecting the Horn of Africa with a number of their counterparts.

The UK has been at the forefront of the world's response to the crisis in the Horn. While UK lobbying has helped to attract significant financial support to humanitarian appeals, there remains a shortfall of US$609 million.

IRG Ltd

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* he or *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had meetings with representatives of IRG Ltd. [77159]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers' external meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/.

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Malawi: Environment Protection

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote environmental awareness in Malawi at the *(a)* provincial and *(b)* sub-district level; and if he will make a statement. [76202]

Mr O'Brien: DFID is currently funding an Enhanced Community Resilience Programme jointly with Irish Aid and Norway in Malawi. Among other things, the programme will support information sharing on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation amongst civil society.

The programme is being delivered by NGOs at the district level and is expected to result in 300,000 people with increased awareness of climate change and the actions they can take to mitigate its impact between 2011 and 2016

DFID has also been funding the British Council in Malawi since 2009 to promote debate and public awareness of climate change in Malawi. In September 2009, over 100 citizens from Malawi participated in a global public debate on climate change. The debates are estimated to have reached 3 million people across the country though radio, resulting in increased public engagement and awareness.

Nigeria: Elections

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent work his Department has undertaken to strengthen the electoral system in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [76200]

Mr Duncan: Strengthening democracy in Nigeria is a priority for the Department for International Development (DFID). The Department supported the 2011 elections which were seen as the most credible in Nigeria's history. Specifically, we helped strengthen the Election Commission and helped with a new voter register of 73 million people. We also supported an innovative and successful mobile phone monitoring system. The Election Commission Chair thanked us for

"unprecedented co-operation we received from the DFID team in Nigeria."

We will continue to support the aspirations of ordinary Nigerians for a better functioning democracy. We will support further strengthening of the Electoral Commission to better manage elections. We will also help increase women's participation in politics and do all we can to help reduce election violence in the future.

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government has contributed to the *(a)* International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *(b)* International Development Association, *(c)* International Finance Corporation, *(d)* Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and *(e)* International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes since 1999. [77060]

Mr Duncan: Since 1999, the UK Government have contributed £4.66 billion to *(a)* International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), *(b)* International Development Association (IDA), *(c)* International Finance Corporation (IFC), *(d)* Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and *(e)* International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Institution	*£ million*
IBRD	204.7
IDA	4,436.4
IFC	4.9
MIGA	13.8
ICSID	0.0
Total	4,659.8

Thailand: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the delivery of humanitarian aid provided by his Department to Thailand. [76986]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not at present providing any humanitarian aid to Thailand. The Thai authorities have not sought humanitarian assistance from the UK with respect to the current flooding emergency in Bangkok. DFID however continues to monitor the situation closely.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Balkans: Politics and Government

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to promote regional co-operation in the Balkans. [76991]

Mr Lidington: The Government are actively committed to promoting regional co-operation in the Balkans. Regional co-operation is crucial to the stability and prosperity of the region. It is an essential requirement for progress towards EU accession under the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). We remain firmly supportive of the SAP, as well as other initiatives aimed at promoting co-operation. An important example of the latter is the EU-facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, aimed at normalising co-operation between the two countries. We have also welcomed initiatives such as the 2010 Istanbul Declaration, establishing a mechanism for regular political dialogue between Serbia, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Brdo process, established by Croatia and Slovenia as a forum for regional dialogue. We are also using UK conflict prevention funding to support regional projects.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the Egyptian Government to offer protection for religious minorities in Egypt. [77811]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), called the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 12 October to discuss the situation in Egypt, including his concerns about the unrest in Cairo on 9 October and action that the Egyptian Government were taking to address the violence. He also issued a statement about the 9 October incident, in which he said that the freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society.

During his visit to Egypt on 20 October, the Deputy Prime Minister discussed sectarian tension with the Egyptian Government, including measures being taken to address its causes. We will continue to press the Egyptian authorities to promote religious tolerance, revisit policies which discriminate against anyone on the basis of their religion, and enshrine respect for human rights in the constitution, including guarantees for minority rights.

European Union

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his statement of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 54, on European Council, if he will specify those areas where he believes that European integration has gone too far. [77844]

Mr Lidington: The Government have commenced work on an examination of the balance of the EU's existing competences in line with the commitment set out in the coalition agreement. An area of particular concern for the Government is the extent and impact of EU social and employment legislation on business.

We committed in our coalition agreement to limit the application of the working time directive in the UK. The current economic climate means that now, more than ever, we must provide employers and employees alike with maximum flexibility. Negotiations are expected to start later this year between trade unions and business representatives. Ministers have made it clear that the individual opt-out available under this instrument must remain workable and without burdensome constraints.

As regards the proposed pregnant workers directive the Government are clear that none of us needs, this directive—minimum standards in the 1992 directive are sufficient. We should not be imposing extra costs on our businesses at this time of economic challenge.

In respect of the ongoing negotiations on the proposed posted workers directive, the Government's view is that we want to achieve an outcome consistent with single market objectives while ensuring that neither our national competence on industrial action rights nor our light touch labour market regulatory compliance regime is undermined.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Iranian Government on the recent trial and sentences received by seven Baha'i educators in Iran associated with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education; and if he will make a statement. [77953]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 305W.

Iran: Sentencing

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Iran regarding the sentencing of Marzieh Vafamehr for her role in the film My Tehran for Sale; and if he will make a statement. [77257]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 375-376W.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Royal Society's proposal that his Department establish a non-proliferation and nuclear security network. [77291]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to tackling the challenges of nuclear proliferation and the risk of terrorists acquiring nuclear material. We recognise the importance of fostering collaboration between Government Departments, academia and industry in order to meet these challenges, and significant work already takes place in this regard that we would not wish to duplicate. For example, the Government's key needs for technical advice and related support on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security issues are met through the cross-Government arrangements that were announced in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR). Co-ordination and oversight are provided through the Cabinet Office chaired counter proliferation committee, which reports to the National Security Council. My Department also engages with industry, science and academic forums on nuclear security best practice and professional development, notably as part of the Nuclear Security Summit process, and regularly briefs non-governmental organisations, industry, university students and international partners on this Government's non-proliferation and nuclear security priorities. In addition, the newly-formed cross-Whitehall International Civil Nuclear Group provides a focal point for relevant organisations, industry and UK posts overseas to foster collaboration and international partnerships.

Serbia

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the readiness of Serbia to join the EU. [76990]

Mr Lidington: As I noted on 12 October, when the European Commission published its most recent report on the EU's Enlargement Strategy together with its Opinion on Serbia's Application for EU membership, the Government remain clear that the future of all countries of the Western Balkans is in the EU once the full range of criteria have been met. We continue firmly to support Serbia's EU aspirations.

I welcome the progress that Serbia has made to date, including in relation to co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The Commission's Opinion on Serbia sets out this progress, alongside recommendations for further work on regional cooperation as well as the full range of reforms. The Commission's recommendations at this stage include swift re-engagement in the EU-facilitated dialogue with Kosovo and implementation of agreements reached to date, and a requirement for further steps to normalise its relations with Kosovo. The Government encourage Serbia to address these recommendations and maintain efforts towards meeting the EU's membership criteria in full.

Sri Lanka

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State most recently visited Sir Lanka; which Ministers and officials in the Government of Sri Lanka he met; whether the export of military, security or police equipment was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [77404]

Alistair Burt: I visited Sri Lanka between 21 and 23 February. I met the Economic Development Minister, Basil Rajapaksa, Defence Secretary, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and Foreign Minister, GL Peiris. I also met members of the Tamil National Alliance and the United National Party. The export of military, security and police equipment was not discussed.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of human rights abuses committed against those of Tamil origin in Sri Lanka since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77355]

Alistair Burt: We continue to have concerns about human rights in Sri Lanka. These are detailed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights and Democracy Report 2010, where Sri Lanka is listed as a country of concern. Our high commission in Colombo continues to monitor the situation.

We consistently raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government, most recently when I spoke to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 20 October. We also regularly urge the Sri Lankan Government to improve the human rights situation for vulnerable groups, to investigate incidents and to prosecute those responsible.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Government of China on *(a)* the human rights situation in Tibet and *(b)* the well-being of Lobsang Kalsang, Lobsang Konchok and Kalsang Wangchuk; and if he will make a statement. [77828]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Tibet was discussed at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights dialogue in January 2011, and the dialogue also included an expert workshop on minority rights and languages, an area of particular relevance to Tibet. Ministers have regularly raised our concerns about the human rights situation in Tibet with China at the highest political levels.

We are particularly concerned at recent reports that a nun and young monks, including Lobsang Kalsang, Lobsang Konchock and Kalsang Wangchuk, in Tibetan areas of Sichuan province have self-immolated. I have written to the Chinese ambassador in April this year raising my concerns regarding the situation at the Kirti monastery. More recently Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have raised their concerns with the Chinese embassy in London and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, urging the Chinese Government to work with local monasteries and communities to resolve the grievances which have led to these self-immolations. Our embassy officials in China make regular visits to Tibetan areas, and have done so recently. We have kept in frequent contact with the Foreign Affairs Office in Sichuan and local Public Security Bureau offices regarding access to these areas.

Our consistent position has been that long-term stability can only be achieved through respect for human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution. Meaningful dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities is the best way to make this happen.

UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the draft protocol on cluster munitions under negotiation in the UN convention on certain conventional weapons does not contradict or undermine the standard established in the 2008 convention on cluster munitions. [77155]

Mr Jeremy Browne: During the negotiations and drafting of the protocol to its current state, we have been mindful of the need to ensure that we can comply with the final draft as a signatory to the convention on cluster munitions. It is with this in mind that we have contributed to the development of the text. We have supported, along with other states, an "endeavour clause" in article 13 of the draft protocol as a means to bridge the two texts. Furthermore, we have supported the inclusion of article 1.3 to ensure that signatories to any future CCW protocol on cluster munitions do not have any rights or obligations to the convention on cluster munitions compromised.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of the cluster munitions the UK has possessed in the last 30 years *(a)* would and *(b)* would not be prohibited under the provisions of the draft protocol on cluster munitions under negotiation at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. [77156]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In the last 30 years, the UK has possessed five major types of cluster munition, as defined in the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010 which implemented the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the UK. Of these five types possessed:

(a) Four of them, the BL755 range of air-delivered bombs, the Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munition 155 mm M483A1, the M26 munition for the Multi Launch Rocket System and the CRV-7 Multi-Purpose Sub-Munition from the Harrier and Attack Helicopter would be prohibited under the provisions of the draft protocol on cluster munitions under negotiation at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

(b) The remaining cluster munition type, the M85 from the Extended Range Bomblet Shell for the AS90 gun would not be prohibited under the provisions of the draft Protocol on cluster munitions under negotiation at the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. This is because it has a self-destruct mechanism, in accordance with Annex B para 1(a) of the draft Protocol.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timescale would govern the prohibition of any weapons for states adopting the draft protocol on cluster munitions under negotiation in the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. [77157]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On its entry into force the Protocol as currently drafted would immediately prohibit the use and transfer of cluster munitions produced before 1980, and immediately prohibit the production and development of cluster munitions with no safety mechanisms, i.e. no self-destruct or self-neutralisation features on its sub-munitions. These prohibitions cannot be deferred.

The draft protocol would also prohibit the use of cluster munitions with no safety mechanisms, but this can be deferred up to a maximum of 12 years, in order to give countries with large stockpiles the time to destroy stocks and replace by other means the necessary military capability.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on ratification of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons protocol on cluster munitions in its current form; and whether he would require any changes to be made to the draft before ratification. [77163]

Mr Jeremy Browne: A decision on whether the UK will give its consent to be bound by a prospective sixth Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) will be reached if and when a final text is agreed. Negotiations on the text will continue at the November CCW Review Conference. In line with our long-standing policy, the UK will continue to push for a text that delivers a significant humanitarian effect and that is both compatible with, and complementary to, the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

USA: Cluster Munitions

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what authorisation is required for US trans-shipment of cluster munitions through *(a)* Diego Garcia and *(b)* other UK territories; and whether any such trans-shipment has occurred since 2009. [77158]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Section 8 of the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act permits the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to grant authorisation for visiting forces of states not party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to possess cluster munitions on or transfer them through UK territory. The only request for authorisation to temporarily transfer and stockpile, according to Article 8 of the Act, was received from the United States State Department. The then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), granted authorisation in order to permit the United States to transfer cluster munitions out of UK territory, in accordance with our agreement that they would remove all stockpiles from the UK by 2010 and from all UK territory by 2013. This has been completed ahead of schedule—there are no US stockpiles on any UK territory.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

BAE Systems

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to assist skilled former employees of BAE Systems into employment following the recent redundancies announced by that company. [78001]

Mr Prisk: The Government are working with BAE Systems to support the individuals affected by the job losses, offering them training and job search support through the Skills Funding Agency, the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service and Next Step careers advice. We are also working with the Lancashire and Humber Local Enterprise Partnerships on two potential new enterprise zones to support the local economies.

In 2010 we formed the Skills and Jobs Retention Group, led by industry, to help skilled workers find new jobs in manufacturing. The group operates a new national web based exchange, the Talent Retention Solution (TRS), across UK advanced manufacturing, engineering and construction sectors to help match skilled employees with vacancies in other industrial companies. Leading companies, trade associations, trade unions and Sector Skills Councils are all supporting the implementation of TRS. We expect several thousand vacancies to be on the system within the next two to three weeks.

The National Apprenticeship Service and the Skills Funding Agency are also working together with employers to try and find alternative placements for those apprentices at risk of redundancy.

Bankruptcy: Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* arts organisations and *(b)* design companies were declared bankrupt in each month since September 2008. [78027]

Mr Davey: Corporate insolvencies are published on a quarterly basis broken down by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003), which does not separately identify arts organisations or design companies.

Business

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the finding of the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey: Small Businesses, that employment regulation on dismissal, health and safety and sickness absence has the effect of restricting growth and recruitment of staff. [77641]

Mr Davey: The Department is leading the cross-Government employment law review and is looking at all evidence about the operation of the underpinning legislative framework and burdens on business, including from business representative groups, trade unions and other stakeholders. A key objective of the review is making it easier for a business to take on staff. The review will also consider ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge aimed at facilitating the recruitment of employees by businesses. In addition, the Government have asked Dame Carol Black and David Frost to carry out an independent review looking at ways to reduce sickness absence which will report shortly and which will feed into the wider employment law review. Separately, Professor Ragnar Lofstedt is chairing the independent review of health and safety legislation, which is considering the evidence for reducing the burden of health and safety legislation on UK businesses.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on simplifying the audit requirements of small and medium-sized companies. [77669]

Mr Davey: European directives set out the law on audit requirements for companies registered in the EU. On 6 October the Department for Business Innovation and Skills published a consultation document and impact assessment setting out proposals to remove gold plating of these directives which would result in a reduction of the number of companies subject to compulsory audit and a consequent saving for UK businesses of £612 million per year.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish the results of the growth review consultation on reducing the burdens faced by small business. [77671]

Mr Prisk: The current consultation by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on "Audit exemptions and change of accounting framework" will close on Thursday 29 December. The Department will publish a summary of responses to the consultation within 12 weeks of that date. The consultation document was published on 6 October and is available at:

www.bis.gov.uk/consultations

Business: Community Development

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to businesses wishing to support local social initiatives. [76895]

Mr Davey: Business responsibility is vital for sustainable growth. Under 'Every Business Commits', we are supporting businesses in engaging with their communities by identifying priorities, promoting good practice and working to increase access to advice for businesses and communities.

We are also committed to delivering business and community benefits by promoting social enterprise. At local level, we have encouraged the action local enterprise partnerships (LEP) are taking to recognise the social enterprise sector—for example, by including social enterprise representatives on LEP boards, and providing Regional Development Fund support for community development finance institutions.

Business: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the ability of small businesses to access finance. [77824]

Mr Prisk: The Department's August 2011 Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Business Barometer Survey shows that 16% of SME employers (i.e. excluding sole traders) have tried to obtain external finance in the previous six months. The majority of SMEs seeking finance are able to obtain the finance they need, with a minority not being able to raise any finance. For instance, of those seeking finance, 21% were unable to obtain any finance from any source approached. This is at a similar level to the previous February 2011 Business Barometer Survey, and is equivalent to around 4% of all SME employers overall.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on his proposed credit easing scheme. [77825]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), regularly meets the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), to discuss a variety of issues.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will be announcing further details on his proposals in the Autumn Statement.

Companies

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of any relationship between *(a)* senior executive remuneration and *(b)* company profitability and shareholder value; and if he will make a statement. [77622]

Mr Davey: On 19 September, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a discussion paper on executive remuneration. The paper explores the link between executive pay and company performance and invites views on how this link can be strengthened. Submissions are being sought by 25 November, after which the Government will consider their response.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on changing the minimum reporting requirements in the fourth Company Law Directive. [77670]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to reducing the burden reporting requirements place on business. We have been fully engaged in discussions about amendments to the reporting requirements set out in the fourth Company Law Directive and will continue to be so.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which companies represented on the UK trade delegation joined him in attending the annual meeting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee in India in January 2011. [77786]

Mr Prisk: The following organisations represented the UK at the Joint Economic and Trade Committee in January 2011:

3i
A4E
Agusta Westland
ARM
Arup
Association of Colleges
BAE Systems
Balfour Beatty plc
Birmingham Airport
BT
Burton College
Cambridge University
Cardionetics
Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT)
City and Guilds
Delcam
Edexcel
Halcrow
Intelligent Energy
International Agri-Technology Centre (IATC)
Jattek Systems
JCB Sales Ltd
KPMG LLP
Learning and Skills Network

Marks & Spencer
Mishcon de Reya Solicitors
Sembcorp
Serco Group plc
Standard Chartered
The Logistics Business
The Technology Partnership
TVET UK
UKIBC
Vinci plc

Consumers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase protection of consumer interests; and if he will make a statement. [77335]

Mr Davey: This Department has secured a reasonable outcome to European negotiations on the Consumer Rights Directive, whereby key existing UK consumer rights were protected and rights were even increased in some areas, notably to prevent over-charging for use of means of payment such as credit and debit cards. We will soon be consulting on how we implement this measure into UK law.

We have also decided to bring forward domestic legislation later in the Parliament to bring about a major simplification of consumer law and make rights easier to exercise, for example making it easier for vulnerable consumers, tricked into signing contracts under duress, to get their money back.

The Government are carrying out a review of consumer credit and personal insolvency, looking at what works and what areas could be improved. We want well-informed, empowered consumers who can make good decisions such as finding the best credit card or loan deal and when to borrow and who to borrow from. In July we published our full response on personal insolvency issues and our interim response on consumer credit. We will publish our final response before the end of the year.

We have also just completed a consultation on simplifying the consumer landscape so that individuals are clearer about who to turn to for advice on consumer issues and to ensure that they are properly protected through consumer redress. We are currently analysing the responses and will make decisions about the future consumer landscape in due course.

Copyright: Art Works

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he proposes that the Artist's Resale Right will be extended to the estates of deceased artists from 1 January 2012, and what assessment he has made of the monetary value to such estates of such an extension. [77837]

Mr Davey: The Artist's Resale Right (ARR) Directive was agreed in 2001, and implemented through UK law in 2006. Under the terms of the directive, the UK was able to delay the full implementation of the right (payments on the sales of works by deceased artists) until 2012. Without reopening the directive, there is no option to delay full implementation beyond that date.

An evaluation of the effect of extending the ARR to estates of deceased artists can be found on the independent study commissioned by the Government "Study into the effect of the UK art market of the introduction of the artist's resale right 2008", which forecasts resale right payments to increase fourfold when payments to deceased artists commence in 2012. This is expected to reach some £12 million a year in a market with an annual turnover of around £8 billion.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with his *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* EU counterparts on the extension of the artist's resale right to the estates of deceased artists from 1 January 2012; [77839]

(2) what discussions he has had with his *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* EU counterparts on the extension of the artist's resale right to the estates of deceased artists from 1 January 2012. [77838]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has met from time to time ministerial colleagues, principally the Minister for Intellectual Property, Baroness Wilcox, to discuss the UK's approach to the issue. The Secretary of State has not personally discussed the matter with his EU counterparts.

Departmental Assets

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the future of organisations which are assets of Yorkshire Forward. [77662]

Mr Prisk: In the course of agreeing arrangements for the closure of the regional development agencies, the Department's officials have regular discussions with Yorkshire Forward and others about the future of the organisations in which that agency has an interest.

Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to take account of *(a)* socio-economic factors and *(b)* potential revenues for the Exchequer in the awarding of contracts. [76551]

Mr Davey: Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage as they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his Ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77588]

Mr Davey: The ministerial office and special advisers are funded by the Department.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77337]

Mr Davey: The Department's Ministers make over 1,000 speeches each year. There would be a disproportionate cost to enumerate and categorise every speaking occasion but keynote speeches are posted on the Department's website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/speeches

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in the last 12 months. [77147]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Nia Griffith) on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 263-4W.

In terms of helplines operated by the Department:

The central Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) inquiry line (020 7215 5000) has taken 77,518 calls in the last 12 months.

0845 015 0010 BIS publications order line has taken 3,238 calls in the last 12 months.

0845 015 0020 BIS publications order line (fax) has taken 88 calls in the last 12 months.

0845 015 0030 BIS publications order line (minicom) has taken 101 calls in the last 12 months.

The United Kingdom Trade and Investment (UKTI) help line has taken 18,475 calls in the last 12 months.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and what steps he has taken to support companies in protecting their workforce from domestic violence. [77003]

Mr Davey: In 2004, the Government introduced a single definition of domestic violence replacing the previous 14 different definitions in use across Government and the public sector.

The current cross-Government definition defines domestic violence as:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

BIS uses this definition for its own internal policies and, as an employer, is a member of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence. Sources of help provided to BIS staff include the Department's Employee Assistance Programme and national numbers for domestic violence victims.

The policy for victims of domestic violence is the responsibility of the Home Office.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on EU external trade: India, what assessment has been made of the potential effects of the proposed free trade agreement on employment levels in the *(a)* transport and *(b)* offshore energy sectors. [77974]

Mr Davey: The EU's sustainability impact assessment addresses the likely impact of an EU-India free trade agreement, including on employment levels. It does not estimate the effect on employment in the transport or offshore energy sectors specifically, but the predicted overall impact on employment levels is low.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on EU external trade: India, if he will publish a sectoral analysis of the estimated net £2 billion benefit to the UK economy over the next 10 years of a free trade agreement between the EU and India; and what estimate he has made of the effect on employment in each sector of the agreement. [77975]

Mr Davey: The estimated £2 billion of benefits to the UK over 10 years from an ambitious EU-India free trade agreement (FTA) are derived from the EU's trade sustainability impact assessment (SIA). The SIA

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/june/tradoc_143372.pdf

suggests that the overall impact on employment from an EU-India FTA will be low. Sectors that are likely to benefit include transport equipment, metals, processed foods and beverages/tobacco, while vulnerable sectors include clothing, leather goods and aspects of electronic equipment.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on EU external trade: India, what steps he plans to take to ensure that the free trade agreement provides protection for the employment rights of Indian nationals holding intra-company transfer visas to work in the UK. [77976]

Mr Davey: The EU-India free trade agreement is still under negotiation.

We expect commitments on the entry and stay of intra-company transfers to be covered in the Mode 4 element of the agreement. We expect these commitments to contain provisions based on those in the EU services offer in the Doha round which clarify that all other requirements of EU and member state laws and regulations regarding entry, stay, work and social security measures shall continue to apply.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on rates of pay of Mode 4 of the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement. [77438]

Mr Davey: The EU-India free trade agreement is still under negotiation. We expect the agreement to be consistent with the increased minimum salary requirements for intra-company transfers introduced by the Government and for there to be provisions in the agreement to allow for the operation of wage parity testing.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with trades unions on Mode 4 of the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement. [77439]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), regularly meets the TUC General Secretary to discuss issues of mutual interest. Recent meetings have included discussions on the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India, including Mode 4 issues.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on EU external trade: India, what protections will be incorporated in the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India for domestic employment levels in *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the UK. [77977]

Mr Davey: The EU's sustainability impact assessment assesses the likely impact on EU employment of an EU-India free trade agreement (FTA) as low, which would also apply to UK employment levels. An FTA will include a sustainable development chapter which will contain provisions on labour standards. We expect the agreement to be consistent with the increased minimum salary requirements for intra-company transfers introduced by the Government and for there to be provisions in the agreement to allow for the operation of wage parity testing.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Ministers have attended the management board meetings of the Export Credits Guarantee Department since April 2010. [77784]

Mr Davey: No Minister has attended a meeting of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD's) Management Board since April 2010. Since 2004, ECGD's Management Board has consisted of senior ECGD officials, a non-executive chair and non-executive directors drawn from the private sector. It is accountable to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable).

Green Investment Bank

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on locating the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank in Cardiff; and if he will make a statement. [77616]

Mr Prisk: 16 cities and towns, including Cardiff, have indicated that they would like to be considered as the location for the Green Investment Bank. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), will set out further details of the criteria and process for determining the location of the Green Investment Bank before Christmas, with a view to a final decision in 2012.

Higher Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the drop-out rates at *(a)* public funded universities and *(b)* for-profit organisations providing higher education in (i) the US and (ii) the UK. [77620]

Mr Davey: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators provide information on student retention for publicly funded higher education institutions in the UK:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141

The latest available information is for the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from HESA in April 2012.

HESA do not collect equivalent information on for-profit institutions or non-UK institutions.

The Higher Education White Paper: 'Students at the Heart of the System' set out the expectation that, under the future regulatory system, all providers who are designated for student support will be required to publish a range of information about their courses and student outcomes.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) statistics show that, compared internationally, the UK has relatively high completion rates for higher education. For example, 'Education at a Glance 2010' shows a completion rate for 'type A' (more academic) first degrees of 81% in the UK—compared with an OECD average of 70% and a US figure of 57%. See Indicator 4 (Table A 4.1) at:

http://www.oecd.org/document/52/0,3746,en_2649_39263238_45897844_1_1_1_1,00.html

However, because of differences in definitions and recording, it is difficult to make direct comparisons between countries. OECD statistics do not differentiate between publicly funded and for-profit providers.

Korea: EU Countries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the potential economic benefits to the UK of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement. [73298]

Mr Davey: The Department completed an impact assessment of the potential benefits of the EU-Korea free trade agreement which showed that the UK will gain an estimated £500 million a year in gross domestic product (GDP) from the EU-Korea free trade agreement.

The impact assessment was submitted to Parliament in June 2010.

Labour Market

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what comparative assessment he has made of the flexibility of the UK labour market and that of *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* the US; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect of differences between such markets on (i) domestic investment and (ii) job creation. [77642]

Mr Davey: The Department has examined as far as possible all of the comparable international evidence on labour market flexibility. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Jobs Study Review of 2006 summarises most of this evidence in 'Boosting Jobs and Income—Policy Lessons from Reassessing the OECD Jobs Strategy' and I draw attention to some of the following conclusions in it, as follows:

> "The experience over the past two decades shows that there is no single combination of policies and institutions to achieve and maintain good labour market performance. For example, it is not necessary that all individual policies are aimed at strong labour market performance, provided that adverse stances in some policy areas are more than compensated for by favourable settings in other areas, e.g. by exploiting policy interactions. This allows some scope to tailor policy packages to suit national preferences with respect to equity, risk-taking and other objectives. However, in practice there are few feasible policy combinations to achieve satisfactory employment outcomes".

The study also identified the UK as a 'successful employment performer' and suggested that it fell into a group of countries that are 'market reliant' and include light employment protection in their policy package. Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States are the other countries identified in this group by the OECD.

The OECD also identified another group of countries as 'successful performers' with different but successful policy packages. These include Austria, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

The Government, through its employment law and growth reviews, aim to build upon this and foster greater employment and growth.

Overseas Trade

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many visits to overseas trade shows by representatives of small and medium-sized businesses his Department funded in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many he expects to fund in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [77336]

Mr Prisk: The following number of small and medium-sized enterprises were given funding through UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) Tradeshow Access programme (TAP) to attend overseas trade shows:

2009/10: 5,239 grants to 4,100 individual businesses.

2010/11: 5,228 grants to 4,121 individual businesses.

The forecast for 2011/12 is 3,600 grants to 3,000 individual businesses.

Subject to finalisation of UKTI's business plan, the target for 2012/13 will be to support 3,000 individual businesses. UKTI has not yet set a target for TAP in 2013/14.

Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* investigations of postmasters instigated by Post Office Ltd as a result of apparent financial irregularities on the Horizon computer system have subsequently been abandoned; [77794]

(2) how many complaints Post Office Ltd has received from subpostmasters concerning difficulties with the Horizon computer system in each of the last five years; [77795]

(3) whether any operational faults have been identified with the Horizon computer system used by Post Office Ltd since its introduction; and what action has been taken to resolve any such faults; [77796]

(4) what the monetary value is in current prices of the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* final cost of the Post Office Horizon computer system; and what additional costs at current prices have been incurred since its completion. [77797]

Mr Davey: Operational responsibility for the Post Office Horizon computer system rests with the company. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on promoting social enterprises in the area for which his Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77334]

Mr Davey: This Department is responsible for enterprise, including promoting social enterprise as a growing enterprise sector. Following a discussion with the Minister for Civil Society, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), in June 2011, he and I hosted roundtable discussions in June and September respectively with social enterprises and other stakeholders, to inform our development of plans in this area.

Students: Loans

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Student Loans Company in processing student loan applications at the beginning of the academic year; and if he will make a statement. [76901]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reviews the performance and efficiency of the Student Loans Company (SLC) on an ongoing basis and SLC is committed to continuously improving the quality of service it delivers.

For the 2011/12 academic year, SLC had by 14 October received 1,001,000 eligible applications for core financial support from English-domiciled students and had prepared 904,000 (90%) for payment to be made once attendance on the course had been confirmed by the university or college. Of those prepared for payment, 874,000 (97%) have received the full entitlement or will receive the full entitlement once attendance has been confirmed.

865,000 applications prepared for payment include a maintenance support entitlement, and of these 814,000 (94%) have now been paid. These figures were published by the SLC on 25 October and are available at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP102011.pdf

This is an improvement on previous years, thanks in part to processing improvements introduced by SLC this year, including a largely automated reassessment process for returning students who applied for non-means-tested support and whose circumstances have not changed and the introduction of an electronic link with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to automatically verify household income, meaning SLC was able to process the majority of new students' applications for means-tested support without asking customers to send in paper copies of financial evidence.

Supermarkets: Competition

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times representatives of his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members to discuss the proposed Groceries Code Adjudicator since his appointment. [77576]

Mr Davey: Since my appointment, I and the Department's officials have met on numerous occasions those large retailers and the relevant trade associations, as well as a broad range of other stakeholders, to discuss the Groceries Code Adjudicator.

Unemployment: Mining

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of long-term trends in unemployment in former mining and steel communities. [75923]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has carried out research on unemployment in former coalfield areas. In general, unemployment rates are higher in local authorities containing large coalfield areas compared with Great Britain overall but the long-term trends are broadly similar. The Department has not conducted equivalent research into former steel communities.

TRANSPORT

Test Fees

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department will publish its response to its recent consultation on test fees. [74089]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) expects to publish its response to the recent consultation on fees towards the end of the year.

Birmingham Airport: Railway Stations

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department have had discussions with representatives of Network Rail on the re-naming of Birmingham International Station as Birmingham Airport. [77431]

Norman Baker: No, in both cases.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the letter from the Under-Secretary of State for Roads and Motoring of 9 September 2011, reference MC/13916, what estimate has been made of the likely change in the volume of traffic at the Dartford river crossing compared to 2003 if the tolls are *(a)* halved and *(b)* doubled. [76751]

Mike Penning: A 2001 report for the Department for Transport estimated the impacts on weekday, 12 hour two-way traffic flows at the Dartford crossing under different tolling scenarios.

The report indicated that forecast traffic flows, compared with forecast 2003 levels, would reduce by 7.4% if toll levels were doubled, would increase by 3.7% if toll levels were halved, and would increase by 17.6% if tolls were removed.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the likely change in the volume of traffic using the Blackwall tunnel if tolls at the Dartford river crossing were doubled. [76752]

Mike Penning: In June 2011 the Department for Transport published for consultation its proposals for revising the road user charging regime at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing. The consultation period closed on 23 September 2011, and all the responses made are currently being considered.

The Department's proposals did not include a proposition to double the current level of road user charges, and the Department has not therefore estimated the likely change in the volume of traffic using the Blackwall tunnel in such circumstances.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what year officials from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency first gave consideration to (i) continuing with charges at the Dartford river crossing after a sum had been collected to cover future maintenance charges and (ii) offering discounts for river crossings made by residents living in Dartford and Thurrock. [76753]

Mike Penning: The then Government's 1998 White Paper on the Future of Transport—'A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone'—set out their intention to consult on the continuation of road user charging at the Dartford crossing, recognising that the powers to toll road users at Dartford were time limited.

In December 2006, the Department's consultation on proposals to change the road user charging regime at the crossing included a proposal for the introduction of appropriate measures to benefit local people to ensure a fair return for those who experience adverse effects of the crossing.

In February 2008, following consideration of the views provided, the Department published for consultation, details of a proposed discounted charges regime for local residents using the Dartford crossing.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purpose moneys from the fund to cover reasonable future maintenance charges at the Dartford river crossing established under the powers to collect tolls of the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Act 1988 is being used; and on what date the amount required to fund such maintenance was reached. [76754]

Mike Penning: The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Act 1988 enacted a public finance initiative concession for a period of 20 years from 31 July 1988, but could be ended as soon as the debt was repaid. The Secretary of State determined that all financial commitments had been met by 31 March 2002.

The Dartford-Thurrock Act 1988, schedule 16, (4) (1) contains the provision for a toll extension period for the collection of tolls to provide a fund for future maintenance of the crossing. An extension agreement between the concessionaire and the Secretary of State was in place from 4 March 1999 and allowed the toll extension period to run from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. For the period of the extension agreement, the Highways Agency records show the sum of £68,363,698.02 received. All toll revenue during this period was passed over gross to the Department for Transport.

The extension agreement was for only one year and was not collected thereafter, as the road user charge was introduced from 1 April 2003.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* source of funding for maintenance at the Dartford River Crossing was in each of the last 15 years. [76755]

Mike Penning: Since 1 April 2003, the source of funding for the Dartford Crossing has been through the Road User Charge. The Highways Agency produces an account detailing income (funding) and expenditure (costs) on an annual basis. Up to the year ending 31 March 2010, copies should be available in the House of Commons Library or they can also be found on the Highways Agency website.

The annual account for the year ending 31 March 2011 is currently being completed and should be available early in 2012.

Prior to 1 April 2003, the source of funding was the toll under the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Act 1988. Income (funding) and expenditure (costs) would be shown in the annual accounts of the Concessionaire, Dartford River Crossing Ltd, which built the QEII Bridge and then operated the entire Crossing from 1991. Copies of these accounts, if still available, may be obtained through Companies House.

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the differences are between the trial to suspend the use of toll booths at the Dartford River Crossing during high congestion or emergencies and the provisions of the A282 Trunk Road (Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme) Order 2008. [76766]

Mike Penning: There is no difference. The suspension of the road user charge is in accordance with the Transport Act 2000 (section 172A), under which the Order was made. The protocol sets out the criteria for the suspension of charges at the Dartford Crossing and how the suspension decision is made.

Ministerial Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volunteering *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76229]

Norman Baker: Any volunteering activities undertaken by Ministers in a personal capacity are a matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests.

Driving Offences

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in England with 12 or more points on their driving licence were exempted from a driving ban in the latest period for which figures are available. [72097]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 10 October 2011]:* On 14 September 2011, 8,838 drivers in England had 12 or more penalty points on their driving licence record and had not been banned from driving.

In cases where a driver has accumulated 12 or more penalty points, a court can exercise its discretion and choose not to disqualify the driver.

Driving: Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the merits of establishing a group of expert diabetologists to assess people with diabetes holding or applying for a driving licence on an annual basis; if she will estimate the likely cost of establishing such a group; and what steps she plans to take to ensure that the costs of driving fitness assessments do not fall on the individuals applying for or holding a driving licence. [R] [75305]

Mike Penning: Based on the advice of the Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Diabetes Mellitus, the Department has made the decision to establish a group of expert Consultant diabetologists. Details of the likely cost of setting up such a group have not yet been finalised but is likely to be small. An interim process will be established to consider applications from those with insulin treated diabetes who wish to drive buses and lorries in the mean time. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will pay for these assessments.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward the proposals to ensure that people with diabetes have access to an effective mechanism to challenge the decisions of medical practitioners and expert diabetologists in respect of their fitness to drive made during the annual assessments proposed under the DVLA proposals to amend driving licence standards for vision, diabetes and epilepsy. [R] [75306]

Mike Penning: It is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), not general practitioners or expert diabetologists, that makes decisions on whether an individual is able to meet the appropriate medical standards for driving. The law already provides for appeals to be made through the courts where DVLA has decided to issue a short period licence or revoke/refuse a licence. DVLA will always consider any fresh medical evidence which is provided.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons DVLA proposals for the implementation of EU Directives 2009/112/EC, 2009/113/EC and 2006/126/EC contain an annual review requirement for people with diabetes treated with insulin which is more stringent than the requirement in the Directives; and what the evidential basis is for this requirement. [R] [75307]

Mike Penning: The 12 month licence review refers to Group 2 (lorry and bus) licensing and will be relevant when the current blanket ban on drivers with insulin treated diabetes has been removed. The review period is in line with that deemed appropriate by the expert members of the Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Diabetes Mellitus. Licences will be renewed provided that the appropriate medical standards are met.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that safe drivers retain *(a)* their driving licences and *(b)* the opportunity to renew their licences should they not meet the medical standards prescribed by EU directives 2009/112/EC, 2009/113/EC and 2006/126/EC. [R] [75308]

Mike Penning: Those who are able to meet the appropriate medical standards can lawfully be licensed to drive. Drivers who do not meet the new standards cannot be licensed to drive. If the driver's health subsequently improves and they can meet the standards, then a new application for a licence can be considered.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the summary of responses to DVLA proposals to amend driving licence standards for vision, diabetes and epilepsy; and when she plans to publish her proposals for further steps on this matter. [R] [75309]

Mike Penning: A summary of the responses to the diabetes part of the consultation was published alongside the regulations laid before Parliament on 24 October. The responses on vision and epilepsy will be published next year when those regulations come into force.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that people with diabetes who subsequent to suffering from impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia regain awareness of hypoglycaemia and are otherwise fit to drive can reapply for their driving licence under expedited timescales after the implementation of EU directive 2009/112/EC. [R] [75311]

Mike Penning: Applicants who regain awareness of hypoglycaemia and meet all other medical licensing requirements will be eligible to reapply for their licences.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with healthcare professionals for the purpose of ensuring that the term second severe hypoglycaemic episode as contained in EU directive 2009/112/EC is understood and applied consistently by health care professionals and people with diabetes. [R] [75312]

Mike Penning: Advice on medical standards is provided by the Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical Panel on Diabetes Mellitus and Driving. Guidance on severe and recurrent hypoglycaemia is already available on the DVLA website and published by DVLA in a booklet 'At a Glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive'. This provides advice to doctors on the medical standard to advise their patients. It is updated twice-yearly and can be downloaded from the DVLA's website free of charge.

Also, an e-Alert system which sends messages to general practitioners was used to inform around 400,000 health care professionals about the changes proposed by the EU directive to medical standards.

Mr Sanders; To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with diabetes charities, organisations and support services on the implementation of EU directives 2009/112/EC, 2009/113/EC and 2006/126/EC. [R] [75313]

Mike Penning: DVLA officials were in discussions with Diabetes UK throughout the period of implementation of this directive. The consultation document was sent to a large number of charities and organisations including those who had expressed an interest.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that people with diabetes are not excluded from commercial driving occupations. [R] [75314]

Mike Penning: Regulations which would permit drivers with insulin-treated diabetes to apply for Group 2 licences (lorries over 7.5 tonnes and buses) were laid before Parliament on 24 October.

Applicants for licences for other commercial vehicles will be subject to the standards set out in the directive. Those that meet the criteria and do not have any other debarring medical conditions will be licensed.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ensure that the effects of the implementation of EU Directives 2009/112/EC, 2009/113/EC and 2006/126/EC do not include substantial numbers of people with diabetes losing their driving licences. [R] [75315]

Mike Penning: The Government must implement the minimum health standards included in the EU Directives in 2009. We have approached the EU for confirmation of the intention of the directive in relation to severe hypoglycaemia.

There will be a number of those with diabetes who will become eligible to apply for a licence to drive buses and lorries for the first time as a result of the relaxation of the medical standards in Directive 2009/112/EC.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislative proposals she plans to bring forward to amend legislation governing the licensing of drivers to comply with EU Directives 2009/112/EC, 2009/113/EC and 2006/126/EC. [R] [75316]

Mike Penning: Great Britain already complies with the minimum requirements of EU Directive 2009/112/EC. The blanket ban imposed on those with insulin treated diabetes, preventing them applying for a group two driving licence, will be removed by regulations laid in Parliament on 24 October.

No final decisions have been made on changes to the medical standards for epilepsy and vision. However, any changes are not likely to be introduced until 2012.

Driving: Licensing

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will revise her estimate of the number of people with diabetes who may be adversely affected by the changes to the minimum requirements for fitness to drive following the implementation of Commission Directives 2009/112/EC and 2009/113/EC and Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. [76653]

Mike Penning: In the first year since the changes in relation to group one (car and motorcycle) drivers were introduced, 115 drivers have had their applications refused or licences revoked as a direct result of the changes to minimum standards introduced by the directive.

Highways Agency

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to publish her Department's review of the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* Strategic Road Network. [77840]

Mike Penning: The independent review of the management of the strategic road network is due to report to the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), in November 2011. The report will be published shortly thereafter.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings on the Highways Agency Review the non-executive chairman of the Highways Agency has attended since his appointment and which individuals and organisations were present at those meetings. [77841]

Mike Penning: The review of the management of the strategic road network is an independent review led by Alan Cook, the non-executive chairman of the Highways Agency.

The published report will include a list of those individuals and organisations that Alan Cook and his team spoke to in the course of the review.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings attended by Ministers in her Department have included an agenda item related to the Highways Agency Review since May 2010; and which individuals and organisations were present at those meetings. [77842]

Mike Penning: The review of the management of the strategic road network is an independent review led by Alan Cook, the non- executive chairman of the Highways Agency.

Since May 2010 Alan Cook and his review team have periodically met the Secretary of State for Transport and I to discuss progress.

Alan Cook met the Secretary of State in October 2011 to report the findings from his review.

Humber Bridge

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much debt was owed on the Humber Bridge *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1995; what the rate of interest was in each case; whether any part of the debt was not interest-bearing in each case; and when she expects the debt to be paid off. [73964]

Norman Baker: On 31 March 2011 the debt owed on the Humber Bridge was £332,128,000. The effective interest rate on the whole sum is 4.25%, which in 2011-12 comprises 5.13% on £275,023,000 and nil on £57,105,000.

In 1995-96, the total debt owed was £435,307,192, which comprised 18 different loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) totalling £76,000,000 and 23 different loans from the then Department of Transport (DoT) totalling £359,307,192.

The average interest rate on the PWLB loans was 9.52% and on the DoT loans 11.62%. Of the £48,975,278 interest owing in 1995-96, £10,078,000 was paid by the Humber Bridge Board and £38,897,285 was paid by the Department of Transport as grant.

The debt is expected to be paid off in 2033-34.

Metals: Theft

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the total delay to rail journeys caused by metal theft in each of the last five years. [77843]

Norman Baker: The Department only has information for the past four years on the total delay to rail journeys caused by metal theft.

	Hours
2011-12	[1]2,772
2010-11	6,088
2009-10	5,360
2008-09	4,719

[1]year to date April-August

Trust Ports

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rules her Department applies to borrowing by major trust ports; what her policy is on authorising any proposed borrowing in cases where a port has unlimited borrowing powers and where lenders are content to provide finance without requiring any Government guarantee; and if she will make a statement. [74048]

Mike Penning: Consent is not required from the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), for trust ports to borrow to finance their capital programmes. Therefore there are no such rules required.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has informed any major trust port classified as a public corporation that it cannot borrow for capital projects because her Department has no provision for such borrowing within its departmental expenditure limit for the period up to and including 2014. [74049]

Mike Penning: The Government have no statutory control over borrowing by trust ports. However, as such borrowing by major trust ports scores on the departmental expenditure limit, the Department for Transport asks these ports to make a quarterly return of their forecast borrowing and repayments in the medium term.

The introduction of "Modernising Trust Ports—A Guide to Good Governance" sets out the position following the Office of National Statistics classification of the largest trust ports as public corporations. Therefore, the Department would expect to be consulted before a major trust port undertook any new borrowing that was likely to have a significant impact on the departmental expenditure limit.

Railways: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has considered plans to improve the *(a)* speed, *(b)* frequency and *(c)* quality of passenger rail services between Romford and Stratford before the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [75851]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans to alter the basic service pattern between Romford and Stratford. The December 2011 timetable allows for two further services between London Liverpool Street and Gidea Park in each of the am and pm peak periods. Line capacity issues mean that further peak services cannot currently be accommodated.

The Olympic Service Delivery Plan will deliver enhanced services throughout the games period. These enhancements have been contracted between train operating companies and the Olympic Delivery Agency. For the Greater Anglia Franchise, serving Romford and Stratford, this will primarily provide additional late evening services for those attending the Olympic park.

Roads: Weather

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Highways Agency has taken to improve the provision of information on road conditions in the event of severe winter weather. [76652]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has taken the following steps to improve the provision of information on road conditions in the event of severe weather:

The provision of early warnings of severe weather being issued to haulage operators via the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association to allow operators to consider alternative routes and/or revise their delivery schedules;

Introduced in spring 2011 the provision of traffic data via TomTom satellite navigation devices;

Introduced in spring 2011 more extensive use of regionally focused Twitter feeds to communicate information about travel conditions;

Introduced in September 2011 the improved use of over 2,000 electronic Variable Message Signs to include the use of warning message legends to provide advanced notification of severe weather and, in extreme circumstances, legends that advise motorists to avoid the area.

Sellafield: Transport

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list every safety breach reported during the transportation of nuclear material to and from the Sellafield nuclear site in the last five years. [76437]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Reports detailing abnormal events occurring during the transport of radioactive material in the UK are produced annually by the Health Protection Agency working under contract to the Department for Transport. Copies of these reports have been placed in the House libraries and are available via the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/radiological-impact-uk

These reports cover all types of radioactive material whether connected with the nuclear fuel cycle or not and do not mention organisations or sites by name. The events indicated by the following reference numbers in the reports involved shipments to or from the Sellafield site:

2006—012, 013, 024, 029

2007—007, 026

2008—001, 004, 012, 018, 020, 028, 029, 032, 033, 038

2009—004, 007, 011, 013, 014, 016, 019, 022, 025, 028

2010—003, 004, 008, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017, 018, 022

The report covering events that occurred during 2011 will be published in mid 2012.

Shipping: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has investigated in each year since its introduction. [76545]

Mike Penning: The Marine Accident Investigation Branch was formed in June 1989. The numbers of investigations begun in each full year of its operation are:

	Number
1990	126
1991	101
1992	84
1993	103
1994	105
1995	69
1996	50
1997	56
1998	38
1999	39
2000	50
2001	42
2002	24
2003	15
2004	31
2005	25
2006	30
2007	21
2008	26
2009	20
2010	23
2011 (to date)	29

Shipping: Training

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on changes in funding levels to providers of training for cadets entering the Merchant Navy. [76547]

Mike Penning: The Government's support for maritime training scheme is funded through the Department for Transport's budget. I am in regular contact with the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes).

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many training positions in the support for maritime training scheme will be affected by the decision to freeze the funding available from her Department. [76548]

Mike Penning: I have made funding available beyond this financial year both for those cadets already studying and for those starting their junior officer level training this financial year.

The total number of new cadets starting this year is not yet known but we are expecting similar numbers to last year.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Report of the Task Force on Maritime Employment and Competitiveness and Policy to the European Commission, what recent assessment she has made of seafarer training and employment. [76600]

Mike Penning: In my written statement of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 17WS, I confirmed that I had commissioned an independent review of the continuing requirement for Government support for training and skills development in the UK maritime sector. I have asked for a report and recommendations to be presented to me by the end of the year.

Seafarer training and employment were considered by the task force which reported to the European Commission. The Government will consider carefully any proposals that emerge.

Shipping: Working Conditions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is doing on the issue of seafarer fatigue and its impact on safety. [76544]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) take the issue of seafarer fatigue very seriously, and are pursuing a three-tier campaign to address the problem:

First, by focusing on the enforcement of the existing regulations, in particular during port state inspections where there is evidence that crew fatigue has the potential to affect the safe operation of ships;

secondly, by seeking international recognition of the problem of fatigue at sea and of its link with seafarer manning levels; and

thirdly, by working to achieve cultural change within the industry so that seafarer fatigue is recognised as a clear safety issue which is addressed through safety management. The MCA has been contributing expertise to the EU-funded "HORIZON" project which is examining the effects of fatigue on performance, and is expected to report early in 2012.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether any of the *(a)* advisers and *(b)* consultants that have worked with her Department on the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract have declared a conflict of interest; [R] [76615]

(2) whether any of the *(a)* advisers and *(b)* consultants that have worked with her Department on the Thameslink Rolling Stock have provided (i) advice to and (ii) consultancy work for Siemens plc in the last five years. [R] [76616]

Mrs Villiers: Interfleet has notified the Department on three occasions of potential conflicts of interest.

In September 2008, prior to the issue of the Invitation to Tender, they notified the Department that they had carried out some gauging clearance study work for Siemens.

In January 2009 they notified the Department that they intended to bid for potential Notified Body approvals contracts with all Thameslink bidders (Alstom, Bombardier, Hitachi and Siemens).

In July 2011, after the preferred bidder announcement, they notified the Department that they intended to carry out gauge clearance work for Siemens.

On each occasion Interfleet detailed the management action that would be taken to avoid any conflict of interest. This was reviewed and accepted by the Department.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the reasons why Alstom Transport was not shortlisted after the invitation to tender was published for the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract. [R] [76617]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 968-69W.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department made of the cost to the public purse of awarding the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract to *(a)* Siemens and *(b)* Bombardier. [R] [76618]

Mrs Villiers: The Department carried out a detailed evaluation of the bids submitted by Siemens and Bombardier, according to the evaluation process detailed in the invitation to tender and published on the DfT website. The impact to the public purse was based on the information provided in the bids.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 November 2011

HEALTH

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 1029W, on departmental procurement, how many contracts involved the provision of consultancy services; how many contracts involved the employment of a consultant within his Department; whether any such consultants remained in employment on the latest date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [77720]

Mr Simon Burns: None of the purchase orders awarded to third sector organisations between May 2010 and August 2011 that were set out in the answer of 19 October 2011 fall within the Government Procurement Service definition of consultancy:

> "the provision to management of objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation, in pursuit of its purpose and objectives".

Such advice will be provided outside the 'business-as-usual' environment when in-house skills are not available and will be time-limited. Consultancy may include the identification of options with recommendations, or assistance with (but the not the delivery of) the implementation of solutions.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78019]

Mr Simon Burns: All costs for the ministerial private office and special advisers are met by the Department.

Depressive Illnesses

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed of suffering from *(a)* severe and *(b)* mild or moderate depression in (i) England, (ii) the northwest and (iii) Warrington in the latest year for which figures are available. [77652]

Paul Burstow: The national Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) for England records the number of people on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of depression, for patients aged 18 years or over. There are no separate prevalence figures for depression by severity type.

The following table gives the number of patients on the depression register for the areas requested, from the latest release of the QOF, covering the financial year 2010 - 2011:

QOF 2010-11

	Number of patients (aged 18 years or over) on depression register
England	4,878,188
North West Strategic Health Authority	746,640
Warrington Primary Care Trust	20,657

Source:
QMAS database—2010-11

Diseases: EU Action

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken towards a UK plan for rare diseases as required by the Council of the European Union's recommendation on an action in the field of rare diseases published in June 2009 (2009/C151/02). [77532]

Mr Simon Burns: The United Kingdom response to the European Council's recommendation on the development of a national plan for rare diseases is due by the end of 2013. As part of the work in developing the plan departmental officials are working very closely with the devolved Administrations and key partners to ensure that the plan responds to the actions identified in Recommendation 2009/C 151/02. A public consultation on the draft plan is expected to be launched before the end of this year.

Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed with atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome in each of the last three years; and how many of those diagnosed have died as a result of the syndrome. [77948]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the numbers of patients diagnosed in out-patient or other environments is not collected centrally. The information provided in the following table is the number of admission episodes where a primary diagnosis of haemolytic uremic syndrome (i.e. not just atypical) has been recorded.

Total number of finished admission episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of Haemolytic-uremic syndrome (ICD-10 code D59.3) by age group for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10

Age group	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
0-17	286	325	310
18+	82	63	79
Total	368	388	389

[1] Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Sources:
1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care
2. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Information on deaths involving atypical haemolyticuremic syndrome is not directly available from the statistical information derived from death registrations.

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome were treated with (a) plasma therapy and (b) dialysis in each of the last three years. [77968]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of these treatments and procedures carried out outside a hospital is not collected centrally. The following table covers in-patient activity for haemolytic uremic syndrome (i.e. not just atypical).

Total number of finished admission episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of Haemolytic-uremic syndrome (ICD-10 code D59.3) and where a treatment or procedure[3] of plasma exchange[4] or plasma transfusion[5] or dialysis[6] has been recorded by age group for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10

Treatment	*Age group*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Plasma Exchange	0-17	18	8	23
	18+	11	31	27
Total	—	29	39	50
Plasma Transfusion	0-17	77	112	72
	18+	0	0	0
Total	—	11	112	72
Dialysis	0-17	22	21	45
	18+	50	8	10
Total	—	77	29	55

[1] *Finished admission episodes*
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Primary diagnosis*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] *Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure*
The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

[4] *Plasma Exchange (OPCS 4.5 codes)*
X32.2—Exchange of plasma (single)
X32.3—Exchange of plasma (2-9)
X32.4—Exchange of plasma (10-19)
X32.5—Exchange of plasma (>19)

[5] *Plasma Transfusion (OPCS 4.5 codes)*
X34.2—Transfusion of plasma

[6] *Dialysis (OPCS 4.5 codes)*
X40.1—Renal dialysis
X40.2—Peritoneal dialysis NEC
X40.3—Haemodialysis NEC
X40.4—Haemofiltration
X40.5—Automated peritoneal dialysis
X40.6—Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
X40.7—Haemoperfusion
X40.8—Other specified compensation for renal failure
X40.9—Unspecified compensation for renal failure

Sources:
1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care
2. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients with atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome were waiting for an organ transplant in each of the last 10 years; and how many received an organ transplant in each of the last three years. [77969]

Anne Milton: The information available is provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Patients on the United Kingdom kidney transplant list as at 31 March 2005-11, where the primary renal disease was atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome

	Status		
	Active	*Suspended*[1]	*Total*
March 2005	26	8	[2]34
March 2006	28	10	38
March 2007	25	9	34
March 2008	23	6	29
March 2009	21	7	28
March 2010	19	8	27
March 2011	17	9	26

[1] Suspended means the patient has been temporarily removed from the list. This happens for such reasons as being too ill to undergo the operation or being away on holiday.

[2] NHS Blood and Transplant do not hold historical transplant list data with primary renal disease prior to 2005, therefore the transplant list data shown is for the last seven years.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Table 2: Number of kidneys transplants in the UK, 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2011, where the primary renal disease was haemolytic uremic syndrome

Financial year	*Transplants*
2004-05	8
2005-06	5
2006-07	10
2007-08	10
2008-09	6
2009-10	14
2010-11	18

Note:
The transplant data is provided for the same seven year time period as figures would be misleading for three years only, as the figures have fluctuated.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Public Health

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of local authorities' preparedness for the proposed transfer of public health responsibilities. [77534]

Anne Milton: The four Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Cluster Directors of Public Health have been charged with leading public health transitions at the local level. Primary care trusts and local government are responsible for planning the transition of public health responsibilities. Local transition plans are required to be submitted to SHA Clusters by 31 March 2012. Implementation of these plans will be monitored by the SHA Cluster Directors of Public Health. The Directors of Public Health will report progress against these plans to a joint Department of Health and Local Government Programme Board.

Health Services

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reason the cost of providing existing primary care support services was not included in the calculations for the assessment of the Shared Business Services; [77816]

(2) if he will ensure that no decision is taken on the bid from NHS Shared Business Services to operate primary care support services in the south west until the standardising primary care support services report has been published. [77817]

Mr Simon Burns: The decision to award services to NHS Shared Business Services is made locally, and the Department is not involved in the assessment process.

The Department does not intervene in matters which are for local determination because local organisations are best able to make decisions about their local services.

Hepatitis

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of a reduction in onward transmission of hepatitis C on NHS costs. [78156]

Anne Milton: We have not assessed the effect of a reduction in onward transmission of hepatitis C on costs to the national health service. However, a reduction in hepatitis C transmission appears likely to reduce NHS costs both by decreasing in the medium, term the need for drug therapy and in the long term, the burden of serious liver disease.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to reduce the age limit for free influenza injections to 60 years; and if he will make a statement. [77477]

Anne Milton: Policy on national immunisation programmes, including seasonal influenza immunisation, is based on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI has advised that the groups at greatest risk from flu eligible to receive flu vaccine on the national health service in the 2011-12 flu season are:

people aged 65 and over; and

people under 65 years in clinical risk groups[1], including pregnant women.

[1] Serious medical conditions, which put people at increased risk from flu, are:

chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or bronchitis;

chronic heart disease, such as heart failure;

chronic kidney disease;

chronic liver disease;

chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease;

diabetes; or

a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment).

JCVI is currently reviewing the evidence regarding a number of potential extensions to the flu vaccination programme for future years and will provide advice in due course.

NHS Blood and Transplant: Pay

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to the directors of NHS Blood and Transplant in *(a)* salaries, *(b)* other benefits and *(c)* employer pension contributions in each of the last five years. [77780]

Anne Milton: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Blood and Transplant Directors' salary, benefits and pension contributions, 2010-11 to 2006-07

£

	2010-11			*2009-10*			*2008-09*		
Position	*Salary*	*Benefits*[1]	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*
Chief Executive	190,000 to 195,000	700	25,000 to 30,000	190,000 to 195,000	700	25,000 to 30,000	170,000 to 175,000	700	20,000 to 25,000
Managing Director National Blood Service (role disestablished 2007-08)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Managing Director BPL (part year 2007-08—role disestablished)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Managing Director UK Transplant (role disestablished 2008-09)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Director (part year 2009-10—permanent appointment)	205,000 to 210,000	300	25,000 to 30,000	155,000 to 160,000	—	20,000 to 25,000	115,000 to 120,000	—	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Strategic Supply and Service Delivery (role disestablished 2008-09)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Director of Patient Services (2008-09 role established)	140,000 to 145,000	2,600	15,000 to 20,000	130,000 to 135,000	4,300	15,000 to 20,000	115,000 to 120,000	4,100	15,000 to 20,000

NHS Blood and Transplant Directors' salary, benefits and pension contributions, 2010-11 to 2006-07

£

	2010-11			2009-10			2008-09		
Position	*Salary*	*Benefits*[1]	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*
Director of Specialist Services (part year 2009-10—role disestablished)	—	—	—	135,000 to 140,000	—	15,000 to 20,000	125,000 to 130,000	—	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Blood Donation (part year 2009/10—permanent appointment)	130,000 to 135,000	7,700	15,000 to 20,000	35,000 to 40,000	—	5,000 to 10,000	6,000 to 70,000	100	5,000 to 10,000
Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation (part year 2008-09—role established)	130,000 to 135,000	—	15,000 to 20,000	120,000 to 125,000	—	1,0005 to 20,000	65,000 to 70,000	—	5,000 to 10,000
Director of Finance	140,000 to 145,000	1,500	15,000 to 20,000	130,000 to 135,000	—	15,000 to 20,000	120,000 to 125,000	—	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Human Resources (part year 2006-07—role established)	120,000 to 125,000	3,300	15,000 to 20,000	120,000 to 125,000	4,600	15,000 to 20,000	110,000 to 115,000	5,400	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Business Transformation Services (part year 2010-11—permanent appointment)	55,000 to 60,000	800	5,000 to 10,000	120,000 to 125,000	9,300	5,000 to 10,000	105,000 to 100,000	9,200	5,000 to 10,000
Director of Strategy Management (part year 2009-10—role disestablished)	—	—	—	0 to 5,000	—	0 to 5,000	100,000 to 105,000	800	10,000 to 15,000
Director of Communications (part year 2009-10—permanent appointment)	105,000 to 110,000	—	10,000 to 15,000	70,000 to 75,000	—	5,000 to 10,000	100,000 to 105,000	100	10,000 to 15,000
Director of Estates and Facilities (part year 2006-07—role established)	110,000 to 115,000	3,600	10,000 to 15,000	110,000 to 115,000	5,100	15,000 to 20,000	100,000 to 105,000	5,700	10,000 to 15,000

£

	2007-08			2006-07		
Position	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*
Chief Executive	250,000 to 265,000	200	30,000 to 35,000	165,000 to 170,000	—	20,000 to 25,000
Managing Director National Blood Service (role disestablished 2007-08)	—	—	—	120,000 to 125,000	4,800	15,000 to 20,000
Managing Director BPL (part year 2007-08—role disestablished)	195,000 to 200,000	4,400	25,000 to 30,000	100,000 to 105,000	5,400	10,000 to 15,000
Managing Director UK Transplant (role disestablished 2008-09)	130,000 to 135,000	—	15,000 to 20,000	125,000 to 130,000	—	15,000 to 20,000
Medical Director (part year 2009/10—permanent appointment)	95,000 to 100,000	3,600	10,000 to 15,000	205,000 to 210,000	1,100	25,000 to 30,000
Director of Strategic Supply and Service Delivery (role disestablished 2008-09)	120,000 to 125,000	5,600	15,000 to 20,000	—	—	—
Director of Patient Services (2008-09 role established)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Director of Specialist Services (part year 2009-10—role disestablished)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Director of Blood Donation (part year 2009-10—permanent appointment)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation (part year 2008-09—role established)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Director of Finance	165,000 to 175,000	8,000	20,000 to 25,000	110,000 to 115,000	5,400	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Human Resources (part year 2006-07—role established)	100,000 to 105,000	3,900	10,000 to 15,000	75,000 to 80,000	2,900	10,000 to 15,000

						£
	2007-08			*2006-07*		
Position	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*	*Salary*	*Benefits*	*Pension cont.*
Director of Business Transformation Services (part year 2010-11—permanent appointment)	100,000 to 105,000	8,500	5,000 to 10,000	60,000 to 65,000	4,800	5,000 to 10,000
Director of Strategy Management (part year 2009-10—role disestablished)	100,000 to 105,000	—	10,000 to 15,000	95,000 to 100,000	—	10,000 to 15,000
Director of Communications (part year 2009-10—permanent appointment)	125,000 to 130,000	0 to 500	15,000 to 20,000	145,000 to 155,000	3,200	15,000 to 20,000
Director of Estates and Facilities (part year 2006-07—role established)	95,000 to 100,000	5,000	10,000 to 15,000	55,000 to 60,000	—	5,000 to 10,000

[1] Benefits in kind were in relation to the provision of cars and are stated in round £100s not £1000s.

Notes:

1. In October 2005 the National Blood Service and UK Transplant merged to create NHS Blood and Transplant. The two organisational structures merged and the initial changes were completed in 2006-07. Further changes to Director posts have been made in later financial years as a result of further reconfiguration to support delivery of the strategic plan.
2. Significant salary changes between years can be explained by a new appointment to a post previously filled by an individual with many years' service, non-recurrent costs of one-off settlements (such as redundancy) and additional running costs when two salaries were being paid to cover sickness or during the process of reconfiguration.

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS: Older People

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of NHS expenditure which is spent on people aged 60 years and over; and if he will make a statement. [77524]

Mr Simon Burns: The most recent and partial analysis of national health service expenditure by age was supplied in departmental report 2006 (figure 6.2) based on analysis of financial year 2003-04 (for the hospital and community health sector (HCHS)). This analysis showed that 43% of total HCHS expenditure was on people aged 65 and over.

NHS: Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 839W, on the public sector, what the *(a)* name, *(b)* region, *(c)* size of contract from the NHS and *(d)* length of contract from the NHS is of each of the staff-led social enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [77512]

Paul Burstow: The Department has supported the right to request (R2R), which has enabled 45 staff-led social enterprises to be established as shown in the following table. This policy has supported approximately 25,000 staff to move out of the national health service into social enterprises with contracts worth roughly £900 million a list of these are also in the table.

The Department cannot provide details of individual social enterprise staff and turnover figures as they are commercial in confidence and belong to the social enterprises as they are now independent bodies. Contracts were negotiated between the new social enterprises and commissioners (ie primary care trusts). The Department's policy was the contracts should be for between three and five years, depending on services and the introduction of any qualified provider for their services.

Strategic health authority	*Trust*	*Social enterprise*	*Services*
East of England	North East Essex	Anglian Community Enterprise	Whole provider arm with over 40 services including learning disability services and services for children.
East of England	Mid Essex	Central Essex Community Services	Whole provider arm. Providing and/or managing the provision of a wide range of safe, high quality and cost effective community-based health and social care related services to local people within the East of England and adjoining areas of London and Kent.
East of England	Bedfordshire	Community Dental Services CIC	Community Dental Services providing vital oral health services to the most marginalised people and disadvantaged communities in Bedfordshire and Luton. The social enterprise will improve the oral health of people with special care needs, and vulnerable people who do not have access to regular dental care.
East of England	Bedfordshire	Sunnyhill Health Care CIC	A range of primary and community services including general medical care services, home visits, minor surgery, ante and post natal care and cervical cytology.

Strategic health authority	*Trust*	*Social enterprise*	*Services*
East of England	Norfolk	Horizon Health CIC	Primary care services and. management of Long Term Conditions for patients in custodial/offender care environments.
East Midlands	Leicester City	Inclusion Healthcare	General Medical Services for homeless people including substance misuse services.
East Midlands	Derby City	Ripplez	Health visiting programme working with vulnerable teenage parents.
London	Bromley	Bromley Healthcare	A whole provider arm of integrated community and primary care services.
London	Kingston	Your Healthcare	A whole provider arm of primary and community care services.
North West	Salford	Social Adventures Ltd	A healthy living centre delivering a range of public health services.
South East Coast	Medway	Medway Community Healthcare	Whole provider arm providing provide a range of community health services for the population of Medway which is 275,000. These include district nursing, health visiting, outpatient therapists, out of hours service, dental service and community hospital.
Yorks and Humber	Hull	City Health Care Partnership CIC	Whole provider arm including Adult Services, Children's Services, Specialist Services, Primary Health Care Services and Corporate Services.
Yorks and Humber	Wakefield	Spectrum Community Health	Enhanced general medical services, health promotion and wellbeing interventions targeting specific population groups, eg adult and young offenders, older substance misusers and dually diagnosed clients, young people and hard to reach groups seeking contraception and sexual health advice.
Yorks and Humber	NE Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	NAViGO Health and Social Care CIC	Mental health services, including services for older people, community mental health teams, eating disorder services and employment services.
London	Brent PCT	Integrated Health CIC	A wide range of primary health care services for residents of Brent, Harrow and Ealing.
London	Ealing PCT	The Wellbeing Service	Primary care mental health services across the borough of Ealing to clients who have primarily mild to moderate mental health problems. Clinical and non clinical interventions using a holistic approach, including one to one, telephone contact, and patient groups using evidence based therapies.
North West	Salford PCX	Six Degrees Social Enterprise	The Primary Care Mental Health Service is an Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Service delivering high quality and innovative care with a central mission to improve mental health and wellbeing through the use of self help skills and see more resilient communities in which people are accepted, supported and equipped with skills to deal with the challenges they face.
South West	Bristol PCT (Bristol Community Health)	Bristol Community Health CIC	Whole provider arm with services targeted primarily at the adult population in Bristol and managing a comprehensive portfolio of complementary, nurse-led, community and specialist services. Providing a number of services with a specific remit, to meet the health inequalities agenda such as our Tuberculosis service as well as delivering primary care to the prison populations in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
South West	Devon	Chime Audiology	Providing hearing and balance care to patients of all ages from birth to old age for the Exeter, Mid and East Devon areas. This includes follow up of babies from the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme through to a comprehensive adult hearing aid service including hearing therapy—free at the point of delivery via the NHS.
South West	Swindon	Care and Support Partnership (SEQOL—Social Enterprise Quality of Life)	Whole provider arm providing support for long-term conditions, rehabilitation, support of older people with complex health and social care needs and complex care at home.
West Midlands	Birmingham East and North PCT	John Taylor Hospice CIC	Community end of life care, including hospice at home and Macmillan services.
Yorks and Humber	NHS Bradford and Airedale (interpreting)	Enable2 CIC	Interpreting and translation services.

Strategic health authority	*Trust*	*Social enterprise*	*Services*
Yorks and Humber	North East Lincolnshire Care—Trust Plus (NEL CTP)	Care Plus Group (North East Lincolnshire) Ltd	Wide range of services including end of life care, specialist services, rapid response team, and all adult and older peoples mental health and associated services in North East Lincolnshire.
Yorks and Humber	Rotherham	Gateway Primary Care CIC	Primary care general medical services for asylum seekers and socially excluded vulnerable groups and individuals within the Rotherham area.
East Midlands	Nottingham	Nottingham CityCare Partnership	Delivering a range of community services in partnership with Nottingham Emergency Medical Services CBS and Nottingham City Council.
East of England	Great Yarmouth and Waveney	East Coast Community Healthcare CIC	Whole provider arm including a wide range of community services together with a GP Practice and small number of specialist services such as prison healthcare, predominantly within the Great Yarmouth and Waveney area.
East of England	Hertfordshire	Health Inclusion Matters CIC (trading as Meadowell)	Homeless primary care services.
East of England	Luton	CHUMS CIC	The Child Bereavement and Trauma Service CHUMS in Bedfordshire offers bereavement support to children up to the age of 18 years and their families following the death of someone close through services including family visits, individual support, workshops and parents groups, a parenting course, residential weekends, family days, specialist days for those bereaved through suicide and also a remembrance service. CHUMS also delivers training to professionals, and produces literature in support of bereaved families and professionals.
East of England	Suffolk	Allied Health Professionals Suffolk CIC	Providing community musculoskeletal physiotherapy and back and neck services in Suffolk.
London	Hillingdon	The Orchard Medical Practice CIC	Primary and additional medical services in an area of high deprivation, including asylum seekers, refugees and many patients who do not have English as a first language and working in close association with other health and community groups.
London	Newham	Name to be decided	A range of integrated primary and community services.
London	Tower Hamlets (wound healing)	Accelerate Health CIC (Trading as Accelerate CIC)	Wound care and lymphoedema services.
North West	Bolton	Bolton Community Practice CIC	Primary medical care services for vulnerable people.
South Central	Buckinghamshire	The Healthy Living Centre CIC	Health and wellbeing services.
South Central	Isle of Wight	The Phoenix Project	A range of day service activities for people with learning disabilities living on the Isle of Wight including individuals with profound and multiple disabilities and complex health needs as well as individuals with challenging behaviour.
South East Coast	Surrey	First Community Health and Care QC	A wide range of community healthcare services for families and adults living in Surrey and West Sussex.
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	Sirona Health and Care CIC	Whole provider arm providing community health and social care services for adults, older people, children and learning disabled.
South West	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	Peninsula Community Health CIC	Whole provider arm of approximately 48 service lines providing a full range of community health services for both adults and children for the whole population of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Service lines also include the salaried dental service/district nursing, health visiting, school nursing, community therapy and podiatry.
South West	Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire Care Services CIC	Whole provider arm providing a full range of community health and adult social care services.
South West	North Somerset	North Somerset Community Partnership CIC	Whole provider arm providing a full range of primary and social care services.
South West	Plymouth	Plymouth Community Healthcare CIC	Whole provider arm providing a wide range of Primary Care, Community and In-patient services for Children, Young People and Adults including a comprehensive range of Mental Health, Learning Disability and General Rehabilitation services for the City of Plymouth, including some services commissioned by Devon and Cornwall Primary Care Trusts.

Strategic health authority	*Trust*	*Social enterprise*	*Services*
South West	Torbay Care Trust	DENPOD	Oral care services for disadvantaged and vulnerable people, delivering oral health promotion activities to protect and maintain oral health. Podiatry providing foot health interventions and education to the vulnerable and those in hard to reach areas to remain active, pain free and independent.
West Midlands	Dudley	Lymphcare UK	Comprehensive and holistic Lymphoedema Service that is equitable and accessible to patients suffering with both Primary and Secondary Lymphoedema, Chronic oedema and Lipoedema.
Yorks and Humber	Bradford and Airedale	Bevan Healthcare CIC	Bevan healthcare providing easy access to high quality primary healthcare services for homeless people, people in temporary accommodation, asylum seekers, refugees and other marginalised groups who find it difficult to gain access to mainstream services.
Yorks and Humber	Kirklees	Locala Community Partnerships CIC	A whole provider arm providing a wide range of health, wellbeing and social care services.
Total staff	All R2R totals	25,000	

Organs: Donors

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider allocating responsibility to one individual for the Government's objective of improving rates of organ donation and transplantation; and if he will make a statement. [77727]

Anne Milton: Improving rates of organ donation and transplantation rests not with one individual but with a wide range of people. As Minister for Public Health, I am responsible for organ donation and transplantation for the Department of Health.

Therefore, work continues at national, regional and local levels across a number of organisations to support the excellent work of the national health service in identifying, referring and procuring donor organs. We have made good progress and are on track to meet the 50% improvement in deceased donor rates by 2013 anticipated by the Organ Donation Taskforce. A Transitional Steering Group, established in March 2011 is encouraging action at all levels and provides a clear reporting line to United Kingdom health ministers on progress. As we modernise the NHS we will continue our work to keep donation rates at a record high so that more people can benefit from a life-saving transplant.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change was in the number of people *(a)* on the Organ Donor Register, *(b)* who died in circumstances suitable for organ donation and whose organs were donated and *(c)* requiring a transplant operation who received one in each of the last six years; and if he will make a statement. [77728]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Organ Donor Register (ODR) figures, 2005-06 to 2010-11

Financial year	*Number on the ODR*	*Percentage change*	*Deceased organ donors*	*Percentage change*	*Deceased organ transplants*	*Percentage change*
2005-06	13,126,625	—	764	—	2,196	—
2006-07	14,209,009	8	793	4	2,385	9
2007-08	15,148,606	7	809	2	2,381	-0.2
2008-09	16,132,651	6	899	11	2,552	7
2009-10	17,084,885	6	959	7	2,645	4
2010-11	17,751,795	4	1,010	5	2,695	2
Overall increase	4,625,170	35	246	32	499	23

Note:

The percentage change figure for the overall increase, will not equal the total sum of the percentage change figures. The percentage change from year to year is calculated comparing one year with the previous year, whereas the overall increase is comparing the final year (2010-11) with the first year (2005-06).

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant

Sustained work to improve organ donation and transplantation rates continues at national, regional and local levels and we have made good progress and are on track to meet the 50% improvement in deceased donor rates by 2013 anticipated by the Organ Donation Taskforce. Significant resources have been made available, largely through NHS Blood and Transplant, to increase the number of specialist nurses for organ donation and appoint clinical leads, donation committees and donation chairs in acute trusts to drive improvement locally. This has helped donor rates to increase and for rates to continue to rise in 2011-12.

Chronic Pain

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the publication of a quality standard for chronic pain in adults. [78005]

Paul Burstow: We wrote to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in December, asking for further scoping work on 11 topics, and for advice on their suitability for the development of quality standards. The list included a possible quality standard or standards on pain relief, including pain relief in children. This topic of 'pain management' was included in the proposed list for the library of NICE Quality Standards that the National Quality Board will be considering shortly, following the completion of an engagement exercise hosted by NICE. An announcement will be made in due course.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (a) elective and (b) emergency (i) admissions and (ii) bed days were recorded for patients with a primary diagnosis of chronic pain in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available. [78006]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is in the following table.

Number of finished admission episodes[1] and number of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days[2] by method of admission[3] with a primary diagnosis of chronic pain[4] by primary care trust of residence[5] 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector					
	Finished admission episodes			*FCE bed days*		
Primary care trust	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*
East Midlands SHA						
Bassetlaw PCT	*	0	0	0	0	0
Derby City PCT	*	*	0	0	31	0
Derbyshire County PCT	9	8	0	25	22	0
Leicester city PCT	*	*	0	0	2	0
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	6	11	*	39	49	57
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	*	*	0	0	72	0
Nottingham City PCT	7	*	0	0	1	0
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	*	6	0	20	72	0
East of England SHA						
Bedfordshire PCT	18	*	0	37	6	0
Cambridgeshire PCT	22	9	0	0	60	0
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	20	*	0	11	27	0
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	*	*	0	12	15	0
Luton PCT	*	*	0	0	40	0
Mid Essex PCT	23	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk PCT	47	9	*	60	109	27
North East Essex PCT	7	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough PCT	*	*	0	25	9	0
South East Essex PCT	9	7	0	38	55	0
South West Essex PCT	16	*	0	18	90	0
Suffolk PCT	16	8	0	29	69	0
West Essex PCT	11	*	0	30	12	0
West Hertfordshire PCT	10	*	0	20	2	0
London SHA						
Barking and Dagenham PCT	12	0	0	3	0	0
Barnet PCT	16	*	0	18	24	0
Bexley Care Trust	18	*	*	3	3	1
Brent Teaching PCT	10	*	0	1	34	0
Bromley PCT	13	*	0	0	22	0
Camden PCT	30	0	0	2	0	0
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	9	*	0	0	4	0
Croydon PCT	11	*	0	25	8	0
Ealing PCT	7	11	0	10	134	0
Enfield PCT	37	*	0	15	4	0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	19	*	0	16	22	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	*	*	0	0	16	0
Haringey Teaching PCT	14	*	0	0	6	0
Harrow PCT	12	*	0	19	13	0

Number of finished admission episodes[1] and number of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days[2] by method of admission[3] with a primary diagnosis of chronic pain[4] by primary care trust of residence[5] 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector					
	Finished admission episodes			*FCE bed days*		
Primary care trust	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*
Havering PCT	13	*	0	8	0	0
Hillingdon PCT	12	*	0	0	0	0
Hounslow PCT	8	*	0	12	32	0
Islington PCT	24	*	0	0	36	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	*	*	0	45	4	0
Lambeth PCT	13	0	0	0	25	0
Lewisham PCT	29	*	0	4	7	0
Newham PCT	6	*	0	0	3	0
Redbridge PCT	8	*	0	0	62	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	*	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark PCT	25	*	0	0	15	0
Sutton and Merton PCT	11	*	0	24	8	0
Tower hamlets PCT	*	*	0	0	2	0
Waltham forest PCT	18	*	0	4	47	0
Wandsworth PCT	9	*	0	17	20	0
Westminster PCT	6	*	0	4	0	0
North East SHA						
County Durham PCT	16	7	*	21	21	2
Gateshead PCT	0	8	0	0	29	0
Middlesbrough PCT	0	*	0	0	5	0
Newcastle PCT	0	*	0	0	3	0
North Tyneside PCT	*	*	0	0	0	0
Northumberland Care Trust	*	0	0	3	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	*	*	0	2	16	0
South Tyneside PCT	*	*	0	0	8	0
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	0	*	0	0	2	0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	*	*	0	1	16	0
North West SHA						
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	45	*	0	4	7	0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	*	*	0	0	4	0
Blackpool PCT	0	*	0	0	16	0
Bolton PCT	77	*	0	0	68	0
Bury PCT	130	*	0	0	5	0
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	37	8	0	1	34	0
Central Lancashire PCT	65	*	0	9	28	0
Cumbria Teaching PCT	6	6	*	33	22	46
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	8	*	0	0	15	0
Halton and St Helens PCT	32	*	0	9	25	0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	134	*	0	2	5	0
Knowsley PCT	0	*	0	0	6	0
Liverpool PCT	*	*	0	36	6	0
Manchester PCT	128	*	0	17	2	0
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	28	0	0	6	0	0
Oldham PCT	16	*	*	16	1	25
Salford PCT	609	0	0	10	0	0
Sefton PCT	0	*	0	0	67	0
Stockport PCT	80	6	0	0	171	0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	224	*	0	11	61	0
Trafford PCT	105	6	0	0	77	0
Warrington PCT	43	*	0	4	10	0
Wirral PCT	10	*	0	22	39	0
South Central SHA						
Berkshire West PCT	12	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire PCT	8	*	0	0	8	0

Number of finished admission episodes[1] and number of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days[2] by method of admission[3] with a primary diagnosis of chronic pain[4] by primary care trust of residence[5] 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector					
	Finished admission episodes			*FCE bed days*		
Primary care trust	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*
Hampshire PCT	60	13	*	213	91	58
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	0	*	0	0	15	0
Milton Keynes PCT	*	*	0	2	6	0
Oxfordshire PCT	*	6	0	5	86	0
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	*	0	0	14	0	0
Southampton City PCT	*	*	0	12	2	0
Swindon PCT	*	*	0	19	3	0
South East Coast SHA						
Berkshire East PCT	*	*	0	0	27	0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	*	*	0	3	12	0
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	10	*	0	19	13	0
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	15	7	0	44	133	0
Hastings and Rother PCT	*	*	0	0	6	0
Medway PCT	8	*	0	19	7	0
Surrey PCT	51	9	0	247	31	0
West Kent PCT	34	6	0	3	42	0
West Sussex PCT	34	10	0	5	36	0
South West SHA						
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0	*	0	0	2	0
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	*	*	0	16	22	0
Bristol PCT	15	6	0	0	63	0
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	9	*	0	40	21	0
Devon PCT	10	7	*	48	16	5
Dorset PCT	6	*	0	21	54	0
Gloucestershire PCT	8	6	0	2	36	0
North Somerset PCT	*	*	0	2	22	0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	*	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset PCT	13	16	0	22	150	0
South Gloucestershire PCT	*	*	0	0	110	0
Torbay Care Trust	*	*	0	21	6	0
Wiltshire PCT	*	*	0	78	17	0
West Midlands SHA						
Birmingham East and North PCT	*	*	0	15	39	0
Coventry Teaching PCT	*	0	0	37	0	0
Dudley PCT	*	*	0	21	6	0
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	12	*	0	44	0	0
Herefordshire PCT	*	*	0	21	1	0
North Staffordshire PCT	*	*	0	0	1	0
Sandwell PCT	16	*	0	1	4	0
Shropshire County PCT	6	*	0	6	2	0
South Birmingham PCT	*	*	0	17	27	0
South Staffordshire PCT	26	*	0	14	74	0
Stoke on Trent PCT	*	*	0	18	2	0
Telford and Wrekin PCT	*	0	0	4	0	0
Walsall Teaching PCT	*	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire PCT	15	6	0	43	51	0
Wolverhampton City PCT	*	*	0	0	46	0
Worcestershire PCT	49	*	0	152	40	0
Yorkshire and Humber SHA						
Barnsley PCT	*	*	*	5	7	4
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	26	9	*	0	49	24
Calderdale PCT	*	*	0	0	2	0
Doncaster PCT	*	*	*	4	25	11

Number of finished admission episodes[1] and number of finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days[2] by method of admission[3] with a primary diagnosis of chronic pain[4] by primary care trust of residence[5] 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector					
	Finished admission episodes			*FCE bed days*		
Primary care trust	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*	*Elective*	*Emergency*	*Unknown*
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	23	23	0	30	299	0
Hull Teaching PCT	*	19	0	16	276	0
Kirklees PCT	*	*	0	0	74	0
Leeds PCT	25	8	*	38	122	15
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	22	14	0	5	185	0
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	*	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire PCT	*	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire and York PCT	8	8	*	1	109	6
Rotherham PCT	10	9	0	1	37	0
Sheffield PCT	29	10	0	34	105	0
Wakefield District PCT	*	*	0	5	19	0

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Episode duration (FCE bed days)*

Episode duration is calculated as the difference in days between the episode start date and the episode end date, where both are given. Episode duration is based on finished consultant episodes and only applies to ordinary admissions, ie day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated).

[3] *Method of admission*

This is the sum of the episode duration for all finished consultant episodes that ended within the financial year. This field does not include bed days where the episode was unfinished at the end of the financial year. To identify bed days as emergency bed days we have filtered the total bed days figures by admission method indicating the admission was an emergency (codes 21 to 24 and 28).

21 = Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant outpatient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider"

[4] *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

ICD-10 codes used:
R52.1 - Chronic intractable pain
R52.2 - Other chronic pain"

[5] *SHA/PCT of residence*

The strategic health authority (SHA) or primary care trust (PCT) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

Note:

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 311W, on radiotherapy, how many of the members of the Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group have a *(a)* medical and *(b)* financial background. [77643]

Mr Simon Burns: Four members of Specialised Services Transitional Oversight Group have a medical background. Two members have been selected specifically for their clinical role namely David Black and Kathy McLean.

No member of the Group has a direct financial background but a separate financial advisory group feeds into the deliberations of the Specialised Services Transitional Oversight Group.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 310W, on radiotherapy, (1) and with reference to the first annual report of the radiotherapy dataset, if he will take steps to increase the allocation of resources for radiotherapy treatment to Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire; [77644]

(2) and with reference to the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group report, Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment (SBRT) Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011, for what reasons his Department considers there are insufficient patients with early stage inoperable lung cancer each year to introduce a national SBRT lung cancer tariff; [77645]

(3) what guidance he has provided to commissioners on spending the additional funding for the expansion of radiotherapy capacity; [77951]

(4) for what reasons the additional funding is not ring-fenced for the purpose of expanding radiotherapy treatment. [77952]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published in January 2011, set out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million of additional funding until 2014-15. This funding, as well as existing funding for radiotherapy, is included in overall primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations which amount to around £85 billion nationally.

The Secretary of State for Health does not mandate how much PCTs are to spend on particular services within, these overall allocations. PCTs including those which commission services for Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire, have local discretion to decide how to use their overall allocation to commission services, including radiotherapy services, to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

Work is under way nationally to develop radiotherapy tariffs and this will include consideration of a tariff for Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment. The development and implementation of national tariffs for services such as radiotherapy is dependent on the existence and use of 'currencies' which describe the service being provided and which enable cost data to be collected, which is then used to underpin tariff prices. For some services with low activity volumes, setting a tariff on the basis of limited cost data may not be appropriate, in which case there would continue to be local agreement on price.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2011-12" states that the national health service is expected to implement the new Cancer Strategy and that commissioners should develop plans to ensure that local populations have appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment.

Stem Cells: Medical Treatments

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stem cell transplants were approved in each specialised commissioning group under *(a)* standard, *(b)* clinical option and *(c)* developmental category in each of the last five years. [77779]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold a record of the number of stem cell transplants approved by each specialised commissioning group in the national health service.

WALES

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assets with a value of £250,000 or more her Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if she will make a statement. [77385]

Mr David Jones: No such assets have been purchased.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77384]

Mr David Jones: No such equipment has been lost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67527]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in her Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77327]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, and I, regularly speak at a variety of events hosted by a variety of organisations. Presenting the information in the format requested would incur disproportionate cost. Meetings with external organisations are listed on the Wales Office's website.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether draft regulations on the use of animals in scientific procedures transposing EU Directive 2010/63/EU into UK law will be open for public consultation during the process of implementation. [77426]

Lynne Featherstone: Preliminary work on the preparation of draft legislation to transpose European Directive 2010/63/EU has begun. We will seek input from individuals and groups with an interest at appropriate points in the detailed drafting process.

Asylum

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed Tamil asylum seekers have been returned to Sri Lanka in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77341]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not record specific data regarding an individual's ethnicity.

The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of individual case files.

The UK Border Agency can identify that between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2011, 573 failed asylum seekers have been returned to Sri Lanka.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her assessment is of the extent of progress by the Greek government in implementing its National Action Plan for Managed Migration and

Asylum Reform; and when she expects to be able to resume Dublin regulation returns of asylum seekers from the UK to Greece. [77846]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* Since publication of the Greek Action Plan on Managed Migration and Asylum Reform last year there have been some notable improvements to the overall asylum system. These include an increase in the recognition of refugee status from less than 1% to 12% and improvements in training for decision makers, qualifications for interpreters and developments to reception facilities for unaccompanied minors. The Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection has also appointed directors for the newly established Asylum Service and First Reception Service which are due to be up and running next year.

However, there is still much more progress needed and the Government remain concerned about the lack of improvements to the poor detention conditions, particularly at the Greek-Turkish border. We will continue to apply pressure on Greece to treat this area as a matter of urgency.

Successful delivery of the Greek Action Plan will ensure that Greece meets its international obligations towards asylum seekers. We will monitor the situation and progress made. When it is clear to us that Greece is meeting its obligations in practice, and that as a result the criticisms detailed in the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights on 21 January 2011 in the case of MSS *v.* Belgium and Greece have been addressed, we will seek to resume Dublin Regulation returns.

Crimes of Violence: Young Offenders

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent offences where the victim and perpetrator were under 18 years old were categorised as *(a)* detected, *(b)* undetected, *(c)* live and *(d)* victim declined to prosecute in each (i) London borough and (ii) police force area in each of the last five years. [78025]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* The requested data on violent offences where the victim and the alleged perpetrator were under 18 years old are not available centrally, and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [77493]

Damian Green: The Home Office commercial objectives require consultancy services to be commissioned in terms of defined output, not in terms of individuals assigned by the firms to deliver that output. Therefore, the Department does not employ individuals under contracts for consultancy services or keep records of how many individuals are working on each consultancy engagement. Carrying out an exercise to obtain these numbers would incur disproportionate cost.

Deportation: North Africa

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were returned to *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Algeria and *(c)* Tunisia under the provisions of memoranda of understanding in each of the last five years. [77050]

Damian Green: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntary departures of Libyan, Algerian and Tunisian nationals from the UK to their respective countries of origin in each year from 2006 to 2010.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2] of Algerian, Libyan and Tunisian nationals to their country of origin[3]—January 2006 to December 2010

	Number of departures				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[4]*
Total removals and voluntary departures of:					
Algerian nationals to Algeria	378	390	441	342	249
Libyan nationals to Libya	104	109	102	149	209
Tunisian nationals to Tunisia	30	34	25	32	43

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[3] Destination as recorded on source database.

[4] Provisional figures. Figures may under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within 'Immigration Statistics'. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tier Four visa holders had left the UK on completion of their studies as of 1 September *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [77800]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but will not be fully rolled out until 2015.

Fireworks

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on amending legislation in respect of the sale of fireworks to limit their purchase to one week before 5 November. [77144]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply as I have responsibility for fireworks legislation.

I have received no representations on amending legislation in respect of the sale of fireworks to limit their purchase to one week before 5 November.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she or *(b)* officials of her Department have met representatives of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to discuss their proposals in respect of the sale of fireworks. [77143]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply as I have responsibility for fireworks legislation.

Neither I, nor officials within this Department, have met representatives of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to discuss their proposals in respect of the sale of fireworks.

Gangs

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gangs have been identified in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [78031]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* Data on gangs have not been systematically captured in the UK. However evidence suggests that gang membership is relatively rare though it can be a serious problem in specific areas. The Association of Chief Police Officers is undertaking an exercise to map gang activity in some forces in England, and will report by the end of the year.

Hillsborough Disaster

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 45W, on Hillsborough Stadium, whether papers submitted by South Yorkshire Police to the Government concerning the Hillsborough disaster will be treated as Government papers. [77568]

Mrs May *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* All papers held by Government in relation to the Hillsborough disaster, including papers submitted to Government by outside organisations, have been made available, in full and uncensored, to the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

Migration

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects to reduce net migration to tens of thousands. [74514]

Mrs May: We expect the Government's policies to reduce net migration to Britain to the tens of thousands by the end of the Parliament.

Prisoners' Release: Foreign Nationals

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners had not been removed at the end of their custodial sentence and were not being detained for immigration purposes in *(a)* May 2009 and *(b)* May 2010. [78032]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* In May 2009 there were 2,483 foreign national offenders who had not been removed at the end of their sentence and were not being detained for Immigration purposes. In May 2010, there were 3,808.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: EU Law

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether it is his policy that the UK should exceed the minimum requirements for EU carbon dioxide reductions. [77815]

Gregory Barker: The UK's 2020 target of a reduction in greenhouse gases of at least 34%, as laid down under the Climate Change Act 2008 is consistent with the UK's share of the overall EU targets under the Climate and Energy package agreed on 12 December 2008, which sets the EU policy framework for the period 2013 to 2020.

The Government set the level for the fourth carbon budget (2023-27) at 1,950 $MtCO_2e$, which is equivalent to an average reduction of 50% over the period, from the 1990 baseline. Meeting the fourth carbon budget depends on progress on the EU 2020 target up to 2020, the 2050 roadmap beyond and the UK share of the EU ETS. Whether or not we manage to reduce emissions by the amount required to meet carbon budgets will depend on the level of the UK's share of the EU ETS cap. The UK is pushing for the EU to show more ambition by moving to a tighter 2020 emissions target, which in turn will drive a more stringent EU ETS cap.

If by 2014 our UK commitments place us on a different emissions trajectory than the EU ETS trajectory agreed by the EU, we will, as appropriate, revise up our budget to align it with the actual EU trajectory.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77490]

Gregory Barker: DECC employed one consultant as of 30 September 2011. Full details of DECC staffing information can be found on the DECC website by following this link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/about_decc/about_decc.aspx

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 185-86W, on departmental procurement, how many of the contracts referred to were for consultancy services; and if he will make a statement. [77507]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has advertised 40 contracts on the Contracts Finder website since May 2010. Twelve of these contracts were for consultancy services.

Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to mark the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All in 2012. [78104]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change is working with the Department for International Development to develop plans for UK engagement, including through the UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy For All initiative, which aims to achieve universal access to energy, improved energy efficiency and enhanced deployment of renewable energy. DECC will support this through their work with DFID to develop programmes on energy access and sustainable energy under the International Climate Fund.

Energy: Meters

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take in respect of his smart meter rollout to ensure that the system is secure against hacking by third parties. [77847]

Charles Hendry: The Government are putting robust arrangements in place for the security of the smart metering system, which have been informed by a rigorous risk assessment. DECC has a dedicated team of security experts within the Smart Metering Implementation Programme, who perform ongoing risk assessments in order to identify the nature of possible threats, including hacking by third parties.

Security requirements are being developed to minimise: (i) the likelihood of such an event taking place, and (ii) the impact should it occur. The development of these requirements has involved extensive consultation with other Government Departments and relevant agencies, as well as with industry.

We have a comprehensive risk assessment and we are developing a plan for implementation, which will specify the enduring security governance roles and responsibilities to ensure risks are appropriately managed.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* policy and *(b)* legislative proposals he plans to bring forward in respect of the regulation of shale gas exploration. [77971]

Charles Hendry: Shale gas exploration is relatively new to the UK and in its early stages and my Department and other key regulatory bodies, including the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, are working closely together to ensure effective monitoring and appropriate control of these activities.

As is already the case, applicants for licences have to demonstrate that they have the technical and economic means to conduct operations properly. In future onshore licensing rounds, applicants wishing to explore for shale gas will have to demonstrate that they have the appropriate competences and management systems, including systems to ensure protection of the environment. In addition we will be ensuring that the area and quality of the acreage awarded will not exceed the capacity of the industry, both the oil companies and their supply chain, to deliver their proposed work programmes both in a timely manner and to the highest of standards.

Overall, we consider that the regulatory system governing UK onshore oil and gas developments, including shale gas, is robust, and that the key regulatory bodies have appropriate powers to regulate these activities. I have accordingly no present plans for new legislation.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes unitary authority area have participated in the warm home discount scheme. [78247]

Gregory Barker: The warm home discount scheme launched on 1 April 2011 and covers Great Britain. It will run for four years until end March 2015. The total number of people who have been supported in 2011-12 is not yet known, but an estimated 2 million people are expected to be helped and the scheme will be worth up to £250 million this year.

Help will be provided in four ways, through:

The Core Group—this will provide energy supplier funded rebates (worth £120 in winter 2011-12) on electricity bills for people who receive pension credit guarantee credit only and meet some other eligibility criteria. Over 600,000 rebates are expected to be provided this winter.

The Broader Group—this will provide energy supplier funded rebates (worth £120 in winter 2011-12) on electricity bills for a Broader Group of low income and vulnerable people determined by each energy supplier and agreed with Ofgem.

Continued help via existing social or discounted fuel tariffs. This will decrease over each year of the scheme as the number of people receiving a rebate in the Broader Group grows.

Support through industry initiatives carried out by the energy suppliers to provide support to tackle fuel poverty other than direct discounts on energy bills e.g. debt help lines or the provision of energy advice for low income and vulnerable consumers. These will be approved by Ofgem in line with the scheme requirements.

Regional or unitary breakdowns are not available.

TRANSPORT

Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account her Department takes of *(a)* socio-economic factors and *(b)* potential revenues for the Exchequer in the awarding of contracts. [76553]

Norman Baker: Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage as they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

An assessment of public procurement tendering is being undertaken as part of the growth review. It is intended that the outcome of this assessment will be announced at the end of November.

Large Goods Vehicles

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status is of her Department's proposed increase in maximum trailer size for articulated heavy goods vehicles; and what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the increase on *(a)* levels of cyclists' safety and *(b)* the environment. [74179]

Mike Penning: The Government have just published their response to the consultation on the use of longer semi-trailers, including a revised impact assessment which takes account of additional information provided in the course of the consultation. This is available on:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-06

The impact assessment covers both environmental impact and safety, but does not disaggregate the safety risk between different categories of road user.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Association of Train Operating Companies and *(b)* Transport for London on the re-zoning of overground train stations in Kingston and Surbiton. [77792]

Mrs Villiers: No recent discussions on this subject have been held either with the Association of Train Operating Companies or with Transport for London.

Railways: Concessions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of travel concessions issued to former employees of British Rail in each year since 1997. [61365]

Norman Baker: The information is not held by the Department for Transport as the costs of providing concessionary travel to retired former employees of British Rail is met by the Association of Train Operating Companies.

Rescue Services

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what locations the coastguard has used emergency towing vessels in operations off the Scottish coast in the last five years. [74120]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has tasked an emergency towing vessel to the following locations in Scottish waters in the years 2007 to 2011.

2007

One incident—East of Lerwick

2008

Three incidents—north of Strathy Point (between Cape Wrath and Dunnet Head); north of Cape Wrath; and west of Skye, Little Minch

2009

One incident—Lerwick, Shetland

2010

Five incidents—north of Cape Wrath; east of Copinsay, Orkney; west of Skye Bridge: south of Rhum; and Glendanda

2011

Two incidents—north-east of Berwick—later berthed Dundee; and north north-east Lerwick

Shipping: Safety

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that emergency towing vessels are available for spot-purchasing at the time of a reported emergency. [74165]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* Because the Government consider ship salvage to be a commercial matter there are no plans to ensure the provision of emergency towing vessels for spot purchase.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average time she expects to elapse between the time of an emergency call-out of a training vessel to *(a)* the spot purchase of an emergency towing vessel and *(b)* the arrival of such a vessel on the scene of the incident. [74166]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* It is not possible to be specific about the timetable that would be associated with the provision of salvage in emergency towing.

Among other things the time to scene will depend on market conditions within the towing and salvage industries, the geographic disposition of vessels and their suitability to the task.

Since 1 October 2011 the Scotland Office has been responsible for leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the emergency towing vessel (ETV) service in waters around Scotland surrounding the Northern and Western Isles.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of emergency towing vessels that can be spot-purchased. [74176]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* It is not possible to estimate or accurately forecast the number of emergency towing vessels available at either a suitable time or place to service a spot-purchase when needed.

The principal towage and salvage brokers monitor the towage market continually and track the availability of tugs.

The brokers provide the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) with real-time information that they can use when coordinating a response to drifting and disabled ships.

Since 1 October 2011 the Scotland Office has been responsible for leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the emergency towing vessel (ETV) service in waters around Scotland surrounding the Northern and Western Isles.

Shipping: Scotland

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the private maritime sector in Scotland on proposed changes to the maritime safety, emergency salvage and rescue operations in Scotland. [73646]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The proposals for the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard have been subject to two UK wide consultations since December 2010. These consultations have included the private maritime sector.

Meetings were convened to discuss and consider the arrangements for emergency towage and salvage, following the end of the contract for the provision of emergency towing vessels (ETVs). These included a wide range of participants from a broad spectrum of maritime interests, including tug operators, commercial and Ministry of Defence salvors, and shipping industry representatives, in addition to port authorities, lighthouse authorities, local government authorities and officials for the Scottish Government.

Since 1 October 2011 the Scotland Office has been responsible for leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the emergency towing vessel (ETV) service in waters around Scotland surrounding the Northern and Western Isles.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the optimal leverage ratio for UK banks. [77430]

Mr Hoban: The optimal level of leverage will depend on the risk profile of the assets and exposures which vary from bank to bank and over time. Given a lack of consistent time series data and the presence of varying bank business models, it is not possible to determine with a high level of confidence an optimal leverage ratio for a wide range of banks and over an extended period of time. However there is evidence that banks can be excessively leveraged and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) has published relevant analysis, indicating that banks which had particularly high levels of leverage prior to the financial crisis were more likely to experience stress during that period. Further details of the BCBS's analysis can be found at:

http://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs180.pdf

As part of the Basel III agreement, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision agreed to introduce a non-risked based leverage ratio to constrain the build-up of leverage in the banking sector and provide a backstop to risk weight based capital requirements. This will help reduce the leverage ratio for banks to a more sustainable level. In the EU, Basel III will be implemented through legislation on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, which the Commission adopted proposals for on 20 July 2011.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many retired civil servants received pre-tax pensions of over *(a)* £50,000 and *(b)* £100,000 per year in the last year for which figures are available. [77429]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

As at 31 October 2011 there were 484,500 former civil servants in receipt of a pension from the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. Of these, 969 were receiving pre-tax pensions over £50,000 per annum including 12 who were in receipt of pre-tax pensions over £100,000 per annum.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77484]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury does not capture and/or record the quantity of resource deployed by suppliers, who are responsible for managing their resources to deliver the outcomes as agreed in these contracts. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the findings of the investigation by the Equitable Members Action Group Ltd and David Forfar in respect of pre-1992 with profits annuitants; and if he will make a statement. [77617]

Mr Hoban: I am aware of Mr Forfar's work, but the exclusion of pre-September 1992 with profits annuitants is determined not by their investment performance but by the application of the ombudsman's report.

Monetary Policy

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made about whether quantitative easing is a necessary condition for his Department's plans for credit easing. [77781]

Mr Hoban: The purpose of quantitative easing (QE) is to provide the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) with an additional policy tool to low interest rates, which can be used to support nominal demand in the economy in order to meet the inflation target in the medium term.

The Government are considering options on credit easing. Such interventions should complement the MPC's QE. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), will provide more details on credit easing at the Autumn Statement on 29 November.

National Insurance Contributions: Gedling

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Gedling constituency have participated in the National Insurance contribution holiday scheme since its introduction. [67300]

Mr Gauke: As of 25 October 2011, HMRC has received 8,761 successful applications for the NICs holiday. A breakdown by constituency, information on the amounts claimed and jobs supported will be published in the NICs holiday factsheet in the House of Commons Library in the autumn.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small and medium-sized enterprises claimed research and development tax relief in the last year for which figures are available. [77672]

Mr Gauke: Numbers of companies claiming R and D tax credits each year under the scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises are published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work Programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement; [75069]

(2) what discussions he has had about promoting social enterprises within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77019]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding reply sent 27 October 2011]:* Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with the previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions. Details of meetings between Treasury Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the HMT website.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 856-58W, on departmental procurement, whether any of the contracts are for providing consulting services with full-time equivalent staff working for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77510]

John Penrose: None of the contracts is for providing consulting services with full-time equivalent staff working for this Department.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 856-58W, on departmental procurement, whether any of the contracts were not put out to tender; and for what reasons. [77511]

John Penrose: In accordance with departmental policy, some low value contracts (under £1,000) were not put out to tender as it would not have been cost-effective for either the Department or the potential supplier. In a small number of other cases there was only one suitable supplier with the expertise and capability of delivering the very specific service the contract demanded, however, again, these examples only affected contracts of low monetary value.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78014]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport receives no external funding for his ministerial office or special advisers.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided in grant in aid to each arm's length body for which he is responsible in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much he expects to allocate to each body in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [77721]

John Penrose: The grant in aid shown in the following table has been, or is planned to be, made available to the Department's arm's length bodies for the period 2010-11 to 2014-15:

Grant in aid

£ million

Body	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
British Museum	46.343	53.664	44.016	43.393	43.267
Natural History Museum	48.586	46.480	45.760	45.204	45.172

Grant in aid

Body	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*£ million* *2014-15*
Imperial War Museum	23.910	21.706	21.436	21.239	21.273
National Gallery	28.201	26.744	26.320	25.980	25.911
National Maritime Museum	19.002	17.058	16.848	16.693	16.723
National Museums Liverpool	23.712	21.875	21.561	21.323	21.327
National Portrait Gallery	7.577	7.398	7.277	7.183	7.172
National Museum of Science and Industry	40.153	37.582	37.026	36.602	36.596
Tate Gallery	54.729	34.605	34.912	34.837	33.441
Victoria and Albert Museum	44.318	41.355	40.705	40:203	40.167
Wallace Collection	4.212	2.983	2.946	2.918	2.922
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	4.882	3.998	3.927	3.871	3.860
Sir John Soane's Museum	1.169	1.130	1.111	1.096	1.094
Horniman Museum	4.518	4.275	4.199	4.139	4.127
Geffrye Museum	1.773	1.674	1.645	1.621	1.616
Royal Armouries	8.389	7.901	7.773	7.673	7.662
British Library	105.847	107.473	96.286	93,544	93.407
Public Lending Right	7.451	7,218	7.084	6.977	6.956
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council[2]	15.218	6.526	—	—	—
Arts Council England	437.523	387.729	359.179	351.620	349.393
Sport England	121.389	95.391	93.690	87.692	85.896
United Kingdom Sports Council	55.363	60.301	65.316	39.330	43.345
United Kingdom Anti-Doping	6.372	6.344	6.498	6.164	5.852
Football Licensing Authority	0.980	1.197	1.176	1.158	1.142
English Heritage	129.854	114.743	103.362	97.764	96.961
Churches Conservation Trust	3.162	2.926	2.828	2.743	2.695
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment[2]	4.690	3.427	—	—	—
National Heritage Memorial Fund	0.000	0.000	5.000	10.000	5.000
The Royal Parks	17.094	15.710	15.027	14.426	13.857
VisitBritain (including VisitEngland)	40.323	35.892	33.092	30.892	28.708
UK Film Council[2]	45.563	—	—	—	—
Welsh Fourth Channel Authority (S4C)[3]	99.647	90.000	83.000	6.700	7.000
Gambling Commission	0.481	—	—	—	—
Olympic Delivery Authority[4]	971.260	1066.100	569.100	7.300	105.000

[1] 2010-11 figures represent final outturn data.
[2] Denotes bodies which are being abolished.
[3] From 2013-14, S4C will receive additional funding from the BBC.
[4] Net capital receipts assumed in spending review during 2014-15.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. [76064]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Traditionally, we mark the anniversary of the conclusion of a conflict rather than its beginning. So the main commemorations will be on the centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918. However, given the importance of the centenary of world war one, a number of anniversaries of key events from 2014 to 2018, including the beginning of the war, will be marked in an appropriate way. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to act as his special representative and coordinator for world war one commemorations. My hon. Friend will work with international partners to ensure that the UK plays a full and active role; and will coordinate the cross-Whitehall effort in respect of the commemorations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Civil Servants: Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73193]

Robert Neill: The total pay costs (including employer's contributions) of employing permanent civil servants to undertake procurement are given in the following table (which also includes the cost of Agency staff during this period):

	2008-9	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*£* *2011-12*
Permanent staff	732,141	1,140,377	1,347,115	1,335,000
Agency staff	42,247	44,306	10,145	0

				£
	2008-9	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Total staff	774,388	1,184,683	1,357,260	1,335,000

In 2009-10 the overall number of procurement staff was increased to address a number of performance related issues raised after a review of the Department's procurement capability. During this period agency staff were used as a temporary measure.

The Department's business plan estimates expenditure of £1.3 million on employing civil servants to undertake procurement in the current year, 2011-12. The Department has no plans to engage consultants to undertake procurement and has made no estimates of the cost of engaging such consultants.

The Department's procurement team managed £222 million of expenditure in 2010-11. The work involved contract management of existing contractual arrangements and tendering new requirements.

Advertising

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75649]

Robert Neill: My Department has not spent any money directly on job advertising since May 2010.

It did spend £1,614 on a fee to an executive search agency for a senior post; this was initially commissioned in April 2010 under the last Administration.

To place such spending in context, the Department spent £601,605 on advertising (of all types) in 2009-10.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, (c) between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion his Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74209]

Robert Neill: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In accordance with the Government's transparency agenda the Department is publishing all contract awards from January 2011 on the Contracts Finder website:

http://www.contractsfinder.co.uk

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77868]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government uses Defence Business Services National Security Vetting to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75524]

Robert Neill: The following table details the Department's expenditure on first class travel from the last financial year and the current financial year:

	Financial year		
1st Class Travel	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*[1]
Boat	0	0	0
Air	945	0	0
Train	199,516	28.479	12,178

[1] To 14 September 2011

These figures are taken from management information supplied by the Department's travel management company.

These figures show how this Government are making significant savings in the running of the Department compared to the waste and excess that was a hallmark of the last Administration.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to allocate funds received from the European Regional Development Fund to projects in the English regions. [77808]

Grant Shapps: The English European Regional Development Fund programmes are currently allocating funds and have until the end of 2015 to complete spending.

Local Government: Consultants

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which private sector companies are providing free consultancy services to each local authority; and what the nature of the services provided is in each case. [36436]

Robert Neill: Information on which private sector companies are providing free consultancy to local authorities is not collected centrally by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Tenants

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to housing tenure reform as part of the big society initiative. [77755]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have embarked on a radical programme to shift power from Whitehall to the local level—to councils, housing associations and communities. Through the Localism Bill we are reforming the social housing system to make it fairer, striking a proper balance between the needs of new and existing tenants.

There will be no change to the security and rights of existing social tenants.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Military Aircraft

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* maintenance crew and *(b)* airframes there are in the (i) RAF, (ii) Fleet Air Arm and (iii) Army Air Corps; [R] [77535]

(2) how many aircraft per squadron there are in the *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Army Air Corps; [R] [77536]

Peter Luff: Aircraft maintenance is carried out by service personnel, Ministry of Defence civilians and as part of contractual agreements with industry across all three services. Relevant data are not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of aircraft per squadron is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of aircraft assigned to front line squadrons will vary on a daily basis according to normal fleet management activities, including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes.

The number of aircraft in-service with the RAF, Fleet Air Arm and Army Air Corps is provided in the following table.

Aircraft type	*In-service fleet (number)*
Apache	67
BAE 146	2
BAE125	6
C-17	7
Chinook Mk 2/2a	38
Chinook Mk 3	8
Defender Mk 1	9
Gazelle	35
Hawk T1	129
Hawk T2	28
Hercules C130K	8
Hercules C130J	24
Islander Mk 1	3
Islander Mk 2	3
King Air	4
LynxMk3	13
Lynx Mk 7	50
LynxMk8	33
Lynx Mk 9/9a	22
Merlin Mk 1	42
Merlin Mk 3/3a	28
Puma	31
Sea King Mk 3/3a	25
Sea King Mk 4	37
Sea King Mk 5	16
Sea King Mk 7	13
Sentinel	5
Sentry	7
Tornado	136
Tri-Star	8
Tucano	91
Typhoon	82
VC10	12
Vigilant	65
Viking	82

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the 2011 intake at joint services command and staff college are from the *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Royal Navy. [R] [77537]

Peter Luff: As at 31 October 2011 the Joint Services Command and Staff College had the following UK military students on courses:

Course	*Royal Navy/ Royal Marines/Royal Fleet Auxiliary*	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
Advanced Command and Staff Course	55	66	66
Intermediate Command and Staff Courses	47	154	54
Total	102	220	120

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to review its policy on minimum age recruitment to the armed services since the UK's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in 2003. [78043]

Peter Luff: We remain fully committed to meeting our obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and have taken steps to bestow special safeguards on young people under the age of 18, including the introduction of administrative guidelines to ensure that they are withdrawn from units which are deploying on operations. We believe that our policies on under 18s in service are robust and comply with national and international law. The minimum age at which individuals may join the armed forces remains at 16 years, which broadly reflects the minimum statutory school leaving age. There are no plans to change this.

We take pride in the fact that our armed forces provide challenging and constructive education, training and employment opportunities for young people equipping them with valuable and transferable skills.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the value of the work for each of the sub-contractors in the Lockheed Martin UK Warrior Transformation Team. [77646]

Peter Luff: This is a matter for Lockheed Martin UK who has responsibility for these sub-contracts.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate what proportion of the monetary value of the work on the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme will be undertaken in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* overseas over the course of that contract. [77647]

Peter Luff: The Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme will create and sustain approximately 600 British jobs within prime contractor, Lockheed Martin UK and its supply chain, representing 90% UK content, as the programme moves through the demonstration and manufacture phases. As a percentage of total contract value, approximately 83% of the work will be carried out in England, 7% in Scotland and 10% overseas.

The monetary value of sub-contracts that contribute to the overall programme is a matter for Lockheed Martin UK.

AWE Aldermaston

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected cost is of the Technology Development Centre to be built at Aldermaston. [77578]

Peter Luff: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests and impact on the formulation or development of Government policy.

British Army Training Unit Suffield

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the British Army Training Unit Suffield in each of the last 10 years. [77242]

Peter Luff: Records of the amount the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has spent on the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) only exist for the last five years and are provided in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	32.5
2007-08	39.8
2008-09	38.9
2009-10	58.0
2010-11	55.3

These figures exclude manpower costs for military and MOD civil servants, and also for stock consumption, since these costs would be incurred wherever the Army is training.

The costs do include the impact of foreign exchange variations which accounts for an element of the increase between years 2008-09 and 2009-10, along with an increase in training activity at BATUS across the same period.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the cost of army training facilities of transferring such facilities from Germany to the British Army Training Unit Suffield. [77282]

Peter Luff: The training that currently takes place in Germany is unit-level training and similar training also takes place in the UK. This training is conducted close to where individual units are based and we do not anticipate this changing in the future. The training that takes place in the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) is higher level collective training, where a number of units join together to form battle groups for large scale exercises in preparation for deployment. For this reason, no assessment has been made of the costs of transferring Germany-based training facilities to the BATUS.

Clyde Submarine Base

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of the refurbishment of the explosives handling jetty at RNAD Coulport. [77648]

Mr Robathan: The latest estimated total cost (including VAT) of the refurbishment of the explosives handling jetty at RNAD Coulport is £31.70 million.

The project is on budget and on target to reach completion in December this year, approximately six months ahead of the original programme.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77609]

Mr Robathan: There have been no formal applications to date. However, the Ministry of Defence continues to provide support to employees from two business areas as they consider whether to make an application.

IRG Ltd

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has awarded any contracts to IRG Ltd. [77160]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's contracts database has no record of contracts placed with Iraq Research Group Ltd in recent years.

Italy: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of discussions between his Department and the Italian Government on medium altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicles. [77283]

Peter Luff: Recent engagements between the UK Ministry of Defence and Italian Government have provided both nations the opportunity to share their views on medium altitude long endurance, unmanned aerial vehicles. The UK has undertaken to work bilaterally with France on this capability, as stated at the 2010 UK-France Summit and our first priority is therefore to ensure the success of this agreement.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is conducting nuclear stress tests as required by the European Commission for defence nuclear establishments and reactors. [77649]

Peter Luff: All duty holders in the defence nuclear programme are undertaking work to consider the application of lessons to be learnt from the Fukushima event. Although outside the scope of the European Commission's remit, this work is being informed by the stress tests developed by the European Nuclear Safety Regulatory Group adapted to be appropriate to the activity concerned.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a redacted copy of his review of the safety of the defence nuclear programme in the light of the Fukushima nuclear accident. [77650]

Peter Luff: Redacted copies of the preliminary report, and supporting initial statement by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as reasonably possible. It is intended that the final report will also be placed in the public domain in due course.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* training Ugandan and Burundian soldiers to serve in the Amisom force and *(b)* funding Amisom operations in Somalia in each of the last three years. [76764]

Peter Luff: The British Government often train alongside or assist in the training of other nations' troops. The United Kingdom's support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is funded through the Conflict Pool, not the Defence budget.

The Conflict Pool, which is constructed from joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence (MOD) funding, has provided funding for MOD support to the training of the armed forces of Uganda and Burundi serving in AMISOM as follows:

		£
	Uganda	*Burundi*
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	0	25,000
2010-11	430,000	199,000

Technical support to AMISOM operations is also funded through the Conflict Pool and paid for by both the FCO and the MOD. It has amounted to:

	£
2008-09	98,100
2009-10	796,000
2010-11	3,450,000

These figures exclude the UK's assessed contributions to the United Nations and European Union support to AMISOM. These are paid by the FCO.

Warships

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warships are available for active service in the Navy. [78010][1]

Peter Luff: Details of the number of Royal Navy warships available, in various states of readiness, for active service are provided in the following table:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
Type 45 Destroyer	3
Type 42 Destroyer	4
Type 23 Frigate	13
Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	8
Sandown Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (Helicopter)	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Ice Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

Yemen

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* material and *(b)* technical support his Department provided to the Yemeni Government in each of the last five years. [77551]

Peter Luff: Given the serious threat al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) poses to UK national security, Her Majesty's Government have been working with the Yemeni Government for a number of years supporting them in disrupting AQAP. This support has included training, delivered both in Yemen and in UK, and the provision of a limited amount of non-lethal equipment. At the centre of our all training and support is a

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1.*[Official Report, 15 December 2011, Vol. 537, c. 2MC.]*

commitment to promoting human rights. The UK Government seek assurances that the forces we are involved with will not be deployed on operations outside of their mandate or in breach of human rights.

The UK has provided professional development training for officers of the Yemeni security forces as follows:

	Number of students
2006	5
2007	7
2008	6
2009	7
2010	9

This training includes elements which enhance an individual's understanding of the control and employment of security forces in accordance with the rule of law.

At the request of the Yemeni Government the UK provided training for the Yemeni Central Security Force Public Order Battalion in October 2010 and February 2011. The aim of this training was to reduce the use of lethal force in public order situations and address a source of grievance among Yemeni citizens by developing the capability of the Yemeni Central Security Forces to be able to deal with public order situations in an accountable and professional manner. The training, which was conducted in Yemen, included human rights and law of armed conflict training at the request of the Yemenis; escalation and de-escalation drills were included as were the principles of use of minimum force. As part of this training package a small amount of non-hazardous and non-lethal public order equipment, to the value of £90,000, was gifted to Yemen from surplus UK stocks in order to cover Yemeni capability gaps and to ensure that UK techniques could be taught and applied correctly. This equipment was delivered to the Yemeni Central Security Force in February 2011.

The UK has also worked with the Yemeni Counter Terrorism Unit, in concert with other donors, to increase Yemen's capability to tackle AQAP, including training and advice over the past five years and the provision of equipment and infrastructure in financial year 2010-11. The UK has also delivered training, advice and the provision of rigid inflatable boats to the Yemeni coastguard, based in both Sana'a and Aden, since 2005, as part of our wider counterterrorism and regional security efforts.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's counterterrorism programme is the principal funding stream for the Government's counterterrorism work overseas, overseen by a cross-government programme board. A decision to fund a particular project is taken only after an assessment of possible impacts and human rights implications has been completed.

The political and security situation in Sana'a has deteriorated significantly this year; consequently this training was suspended in May 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff working for his Department in *(a)* France and *(b)* the US were employed as consultants in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [77575]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a central record of consultants working in overseas missions. Procurement activities are devolved to directorates in the UK and a network of nearly 270 posts overseas. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Any use of consultants would be subject to rigorous scrutiny and the acceptance of a business case.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77594]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs receives no external funding for either *(a)* his ministerial office or *(b)* his advisers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77356]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77606]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no record of any applications from employees to run services. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1108W.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77900]

Mr Lidington: The booklet "HMG Personnel Security Controls", describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks and is publicly available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

Since May 2010, the posts mentioned have been held by: *(a)* Ian Hargreaves and then Andrew Whyte (director of communications); *(b)* no post with this title exists; *(c)* Carl Newns.

Government Communications Headquarters: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget was for GCHQ in each of the last two years; what the planned budget is in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [77354]

Mr Lidington: The budgets for the Security Service, SIS and GCHQ form the Single Intelligence Account (SIA) which is voted by Parliament as a consolidated allocation. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of the individual Agency budgets beyond what is already published. Most recently the overall SIA budget details can be found at paragraphs 39 and 41 of the Intelligence and Security Committee's (ISC) 2010-11 Annual Report which was published on 13 July 2011 (Cm 8114).

IRG Ltd

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had meetings with representatives of IRG Ltd. [77162]

Mr Lidington: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers in this Government have no record or recollection of having held a meeting with representatives of IRG Ltd. In July 2010, Mr Stephen Crouch approached the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), at Juba airport and they spoke briefly.

Kosovo: Borders

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the border dispute in Kosovo. [77803]

Mr Lidington: I am following the situation in northern Kosovo very closely and receive frequent detailed reporting from officials. I discussed this issue with Serbian leaders during my visit to Belgrade on 31 October to 1 November. The issue was also discussed by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he met the Kosovo Foreign Minister on 20 October.

The situation in northern Kosovo remains tense but calm. The border points are open and under EULEX control, with NATO's peacekeeping force, KFOR, providing security. There has been no repeat of the 27 September attack on KFOR troops. Kosovo Serb barricades remain across northern Kosovo. KFOR has started to remove the barriers in conformity with its mandate to guarantee security and freedom of movement.

The EU-facilitated Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia offers the best opportunity for Pristina and Belgrade to resolve their differences in a way that improves the lives of their people and helps both countries progress in a more stable manner towards EU accession. We urge the governments of Kosovo and Serbia to reengage in the Dialogue as soon as possible and to implement those agreements already reached.

UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the adoption in its present form of the draft protocol on cluster munitions in the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on universalisation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and promotion of its norms as required under Article 21. [77164]

Alistair Burt: We believe that engaging in negotiations for a protocol on cluster munitions in the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is consistent with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 21. These are negotiations within the framework of an International Humanitarian Law treaty. They are aiming to establish restrictions on a significant number of cluster munitions, which would have a notable humanitarian effect. A protocol could serve as a first step towards wider prohibitions for those states not in a position to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the near future. Irrespective of the outcome of negotiations at the CCW we will continue to encourage non-party states to accede to the Oslo Convention with the goal of universalising the Convention.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice his Department has received on the Government's interpretative declaration on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. [78044]

Mr Jeremy Browne: It is not Government practice to disclose whether they have sought legal advice or the content of any advice obtained. The UK played a full and active role in negotiations leading to the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The UK signed the Optional Protocol in September 2000 and ratified on 24 June 2003. The Government's understanding of their obligations is clarified by the interpretive declaration they made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification. This made clear that the armed forces would continue to recruit from age 16 but included a clear commitment to take all feasible measures to ensure those who had not yet reached the age of 18 years old did not take a direct part in hostilities. The Government remain fully committed to meeting their obligations under the Protocol and welcomes the steps that have been taken to bestow special safeguards on young people under 18. We believe that our policies on under 18s are robust and compliant with national and international law. We will continue to keep them under review.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. [76066]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Traditionally, we mark the anniversary of the conclusion of a conflict rather than its beginning. So the main commemorations will be on the centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918. However, given the importance of the centenary of World War 1, a number of anniversaries of key events from 2014 to 2018, including the beginning of the war, will be marked in an appropriate way. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), to act as his Special Representative and Co-ordinator for World War 1 Commemorations. My hon. Friend will work with international partners to ensure that the UK plays a full and active role; and will co-ordinate the cross-Whitehall effort in respect of the commemorations.

Yemen

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* material and *(b)* technical support his Department provided to the Yemeni Government in each of the last five years. [77549]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK has provided material and technical support to the Yemeni Government over the last five years as part of our counter terrorism assistance to reduce the risk from international terrorism to the UK and UK interests overseas. We have been working with the Yemeni Government to increase Yemen's capability to tackle Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, including through the provision of training and advice, for example to the Yemeni Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) and Yemeni Coastguard. Since the escalation in violence both projects have now been suspended. All our capacity building is delivered in accordance with UK values and human rights standards. Before providing any military support or training to Yemeni forces, the UK Government seek assurances that these forces will not be deployed on operations outside of their mandate or in breach of human rights. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Counter Terrorism Programme is the principal funding stream underpinning Her Majesty's Government's Counter Terrorism projects overseas. The FCO's total worldwide Counter Terrorism Programme budget: for financial year (FY) 2011-12—£38 million, FY 2010-11—£38 million, FY 2009-10—£37 million, FY 2008-09—£35 million, FY 2007-08—£16.3 million. In each financial year a proportion of these annual allocations are committed to programmes in Yemen. The majority of our funding in Yemen is delivered through Ministry of Defence projects. Since the attempted aviation attack in Detroit in December 2009, we have also committed funds to assist the Yemeni authorities to improve security at the international airport in Sana'a. Funding has been allocated to provide x-ray machines and electronic trace detection equipment at a cost of £427,000. We have also provided training for Yemeni airport personnel in Dubai and Amman.

The FCO, together with the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, contributes to and administers the conflict pool. In the period in question several projects were agreed which have benefited the Government of Yemen in terms of technical expertise. No money was committed directly to the Government of Yemen. Projects involved technical funding to support the work of the Yemeni authorities in addition to training and guidance. These are as follows: 2006-07 border security costing £25,267; 2008-09 Ministry of the Interior CTU and coastguard development costing £93,844; 2009-10 Yemeni Coastguard development costing £50,563; 2010-11 officer training in the UK costing £145,200 and public order training, scaled down to the gifting of non-lethal surplus equipment. In the current financial year funding has been allocated to provide further officer training, but none has yet been spent.

A small bilateral programmes budget is administered by the embassy in Sana'a. While most of the work funded does not involve the Government of Yemen, one recent project was resourced to provide support to the Ministry of the Interior, specifically setting up the first Regional Maritime Security Conference.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of domestic dogs and cats injured by snares in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [72015]

Mr Paice: These figures are not held centrally.

Cattle: Exports

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the European Commission on the granting of subsidies for live cattle exports to non-EU countries. [73849]

Mr Paice: Since December 2005, the only live cattle exports to third countries that qualify for any financial assistance are live female breeding animals that must meet specific criteria in relation to their age and weight. The payment of export refunds is subject to compliance with European Union legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

There have been no discussions between DEFRA Ministers and the European Commission regarding this issue. However, DEFRA officials attend the Monthly Animal Products Management Committee meetings in Brussels and discuss exports and other issues relating to the market in beef and veal, with the European Commission and other member states.

Dogs

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she plans to bring forward measures to encourage responsible dog ownership; and if she will make a statement. [72986]

Mr Paice: We appreciate that the issue of irresponsible ownership of dogs is causing concern to many local communities. It is not just a problem of dangerous breeds of dogs, but one of irresponsible dog owners. Those owners need to be held to account and stopped from ruining people's lives. We have been engaged with key interested parties both inside and outside Government, including police and animal welfare organisations, concerning measures to promote more responsible dog ownership. It is essential to make sure that better public protection does not place unnecessary burdens on the vast majority of dog owners in this country who act responsibly and care for their pets. We are considering a range of measures to promote more responsible ownership of dogs and will shortly announce measures to make our communities safer.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the Government Equalities Office has discussed with officials of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) the employment of *(a)* interim consultants and *(b)* non-permanent staff by the EHRC; and if she will place in the Library copies of any correspondence on this matter between her officials and the EHRC. [77013]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) must get its finances in shape, reduce costs, and end its dependence on expensive interim staff. The Government Equalities Office continues to discuss these issues with the Commission.

I do not consider it appropriate to publish the relevant correspondence, as officials need to be able to have full and frank discussions about operational management without fear of disclosure.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77711]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I do not receive external funding for my ministerial office or my official advisers. As a party leader, party staff provide me with political advice.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Bona Vacantia

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Attorney-General how many calls the telephone inquiry line operated by the Bona Vacantia Division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department received in each of the last five years. [77994]

The Solicitor-General: The Bona Vacantia Division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department introduced a new automated telephony system from February 2011. The number of calls received by the Bona Vacantia Inquiry Line for the period from February 2011 until the end of September 2011 is 11,429.

Inquiry calls received by Bona Vacantia Division prior to February 2011 cannot be separately identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in the Law Officers' departments; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77940]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in the Law Officers' departments; [77941]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in the Law Officers' departments; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77942]

The Solicitor-General: It would not be appropriate to provide details of the levels of security vetting or other information on specific posts within the Law Officers' Departments, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes. The Cabinet Office has issued guidance on civil service security vetting procedures entitled 'HMG Personnel Security Controls', which is published online at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

The Law Officers' Departments do not employ any special advisors or policy advisors appointed by Ministers.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in the Law Officers' departments. [77943]

The Solicitor-General: When clearance is required at CTC, SC and DV levels the Law Officers' Departments uses the Defence Business Services National Security Vetting. In some specific cases the Attorney-General's Office might also ask the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to conduct this vetting.

All checks are carried out in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid Scheme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the time taken for payment of legal aid fees since the process was centralised. [77655]

Mr Djanogly: Between February and April 2011 payments of legal aid fees to advocates transferred from individual Crown court centres to the Legal Services Commission. An issue was identified in some cases where the computer system had not been updated correctly to show that the case had moved from the magistrates court to the Crown court. This meant some claims needed to be returned to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service for resolution, leading to delays in making payments. Provisions were put in place to expedite claims in the case of genuine financial hardship as a result of the payment delays. The LSC resolved the system problem at the end of June and a recovery plan was immediately implemented to clear the backlog of cases that had built up as a result of this issue. I understand that payments are now being made in around eight and a half weeks, against a published target of eight weeks. If the volume of claims remains at current levels the LSC expect to process claims within the eight week target soon.

Prisons: Health Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which bodies will be responsible for the health care of people in prisons in England and Wales following the closure of primary care trusts. [77625]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

Subject to legislation, responsibility for commissioning national health service health care services for prisoners in England will transfer to the NHS Commissioning Board from primary care trusts after April 2013. Health care services for prisoners in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

Reoffenders

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for repeat offenders there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [77541]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the number of offenders convicted and sentenced for indictable offences by area and criminal history, 2001-10. These figures relate to separate sentencing occasions and therefore an offender may be included on more than one occasion, either within an area, across areas, or across time.

Figures for the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are not available; figures have been provided for Bexley local authority which includes the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

Sentencing occasions have been allocated to a location on the basis of the police force that processed the offence, or in the case of Bexley the offender's address at the time of conviction. Repeat offenders are those with a previous conviction or caution anywhere in England or Wales. These figures are a further breakdown of table Q7.5 in 'Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2010' which was published on 26 May 2011.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of convictions for repeat offenders dealt with in Bexley local authority, the Metropolitan police and police forces in England, 2001-10[1, 2]

									Sentencing occasions	
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Bexley local authority										
All offenders	454	461	512	502	553	573	638	722	881	998
Repeat offenders	390	399	453	435	478	499	550	616	763	853
Percentage	85.9	86.6	88.5	86.7	86.4	87.1	86.2	85.3	86.6	85.5
Metropolitan police force										
All offenders	43,489	48,757	48,374	45,604	43,608	45,549	47,676	51,696	52,681	55,516
Repeat offenders	35,887	40,257	40,478	37,805	35,792	37,727	39,553	43,272	44,563	46,982
Percentage	82.5	82.6	83.7	82.9	82.1	82.8	83.0	83.7	84.6	84.6
Police forces in England										
All offenders	296,998	311,212	313,915	299,922	287,991	284,746	295,734	306,485	302,867	309,355
Repeat offenders	261,217	276,070	279,428	265,098	254,293	252,307	263,512	274,317	271,228	276,596
Percentage	88.0	88.7	89.0	88.4	88.3	88.6	89.1	89.5	89.6	89.4

[1] Repeat offenders are those who had at least one previous caution or conviction.

[2] Figures are counts of sentencing occasions.

EDUCATION

Children's Centres

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proposals he has for future obligations or requirements for the provision of childcare by children's centres. [76137]

Sarah Teather: The Government have set out a core purpose for Sure Start Children's Centres, focused on outcomes for children and families, particularly the most vulnerable. It is clear that children's centres can best achieve this by providing access to a range of universal and targeted services, which includes high-quality child care and early education such as access to the three and four-year-old entitlement to 15 hours of free early education and the new entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds. The evidence is clear on the impact that high-quality early learning and child care has on children's outcomes, particularly for the most disadvantaged children.

The Government do not want to prescribe the detail of how local authorities and professionals run local services. However, as set out in the Childcare Act 2006, all children's centres should provide access to child care, either by having it on site or by providing advice and assistance in accessing it elsewhere. Children's centres with early learning and child care on site must meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which set the standards for quality across all early years settings. The Government have recently consulted on their proposals for a clearer, simpler, more effective EYFS. A summary report on the consultation, and the Government's response, will be published later this year.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in his Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73215]

Tim Loughton: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 360W, on New Schools Network, for what reason he has decided not to publish all correspondence between his Department and the New Schools Network; [75387]

(2) when he plans to announce the successful bidder for his Department's competitive grant process in relation to free schools; [75388]

(3) if he will publish representations which he has received from potential providers of free schools on the service provided by the New Schools Network under its agreement with his Department; [75389]

(4) what discussions Ministers and officials of his Department had with the Cabinet Office on the award of funding to the New Schools Network; [75390]

(5) what specific conditions were contained in the grant agreement between his Department and the New Schools Network relating to conflicts of interest. [75392]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not routinely publish correspondence that it receives and sends as part of the normal course of business; this is no exception.

The Department had no discussions with the Cabinet Office prior to the original grant award to the NSN.

The conflicts of interest clause in the original NSN grant letter was based on the Department's model agreement and says:

> "NSN will ensure that staff, trustees, volunteers and advisers' conflicts of interest and potential conflicts of interest are promptly disclosed to the Department and recorded by NSN, and that proper standards of integrity are applied in relation to all its activities".

Following an open competitive process the NSN was successful with its bid for grant funding from 1 November 2011.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when his Department decided to reduce support for PGCE students starting in September 2011; what support his Department will provide to such students; and if he will make a statement; [75738]

(2) what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse following the reduction in support for PGCE students starting in September 2011. [75739]

Mr Gibb: Details of the training bursary arrangements for PGCE trainees starting courses in September 2011 were announced by the Department on 31 January 2011 and set out in a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to the chief executive of the Training and Development Agency for Schools on the same date. The letter confirmed that in 2011/12 £9,000 bursaries are available for PGCE trainees in mathematics, physics, chemistry and engineering while those on biology, combined/general science and modern foreign languages courses can receive £6,000 bursaries. All PGCE students can apply for the same student support as undergraduate students, including maintenance loans and means-tested grants.

The cost of providing bursaries for postgraduate trainees that started courses in September 2010 is £151.3 million. The cost of providing bursaries for postgraduate trainees that started courses in September 2011 is £59.5 million.

Our discussion document "Training our next generation of outstanding teachers" sets out proposals for reforming initial teacher training, including providing bursaries designed to make training to teach more attractive to the most talented graduates, especially in shortage subjects, from 2012/13. The proposals set out a bursary rate of between £4,000 and £20,000 depending on the degree classification of the trainee and the subject specialism or phase of the postgraduate course. We expect to announce the final arrangements for 2012/13 shortly. The bursaries will continue to be adjusted regularly according to the size of the pool of potential teachers and the demand from schools for new teachers.

Pupil Exclusions

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made on the pilots of a new approach to permanent exclusions; what plans he has to introduce legislative proposals to amend provisions relating to permanent exclusions; and if he will make a statement. [77272]

Mr Gibb: Work on the trial commenced in September in the six local authorities which have so far committed to testing the new approach to school exclusion. These authorities are: Derbyshire, Lancashire, Wiltshire, East Sussex, Sefton and Redcar and Cleveland. The trial will cover at least 3,000 pupils "at-risk" of exclusion and we are currently in discussion with eight more local authorities who are hoping to join.

The trial authorities are currently working with their schools to establish their own local arrangements and to develop schools' capacity to take on increased responsibilities for commissioning alternative provision.

There will be an in-depth evaluation of the trial which will provide evidence of the impact of this new process on the outcomes for these "at-risk" pupils. Our intention is to consider legislative changes on the basis of this evidence.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of new build and refurbished schools that comply with Government guidelines on the inclusion of sprinklers; and if he will make a statement. [75798]

Mr Gibb: Information is not held on the proportion of new build and refurbished schools that have installed sprinkler systems.

The decision on whether or not to install sprinklers in schools and the assessment of the risks and benefits of installing sprinklers, is a matter for schools and local authorities.

Social Mobility

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what step his Department is taking to improve social mobility; and if he will make a statement. [76603]

Mr Gibb: This Government have set out an education reform programme in order to drive up attainment for children, regardless of their background, and to keep pace with the highest-performing systems in the world. We have undertaken specific measures to improve social mobility as set out in the Government's "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility". These measures aim to ensure life chances are more equal at critical points such as the early years of development; school readiness at age five; GCSE attainment and the choice of options at 16.

Evidence shows that investment in the early years of a child's life makes a difference to their future attainment. We have extended the free entitlement to early education to 15 hours per week for all three and four-year-olds, and we have committed to extend free early education to all disadvantaged two-year-olds by 2013. Funding for places for disadvantaged two-year-olds will rise from £64 million in the current financial year to £380 million by the end of the spending review period and will mean that around 140,000 two-year-olds will in the future benefit from free places.

We have introduced the pupil premium which will provide additional resources to help raise the attainment of pupils from low income families. Total funding for the pupil premium is £625 million in 2011-12, £1.25 billion in 2012-13 and will rise to £2.5 billion a year by 2014-15.

The pupil premium sits alongside a range of reforms that will help to ensure that more pupils achieve higher standards. These include allowing schools greater freedoms and flexibility to use their budgets as they think best, introducing a more rigorous emphasis on phonics in the early years of primary education and reviewing the national curriculum and assessment arrangements. We have also introduced a new £50 million pupil premium summer school programme which will provide two weeks of teaching and activities to help the most disadvantaged pupils make the transition from primary to secondary school.

Students: Transport

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many local authorities have changed their transport subsidies for 16 to 18-year-olds accessing education and training between academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12. [74612]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities are required by section 509AA of the Education Act 1996 to publish a transport policy statement each year which sets out the support they will provide for 16 to 19-year-olds attending further education. The Department for Education is undertaking an exercise to establish whether all local authorities have published transport policy statements as required by section 509AA of the Education Act 1996.

We do not have information on the changes to transport subsidies for 16 to 18-year-olds accessing education and training between academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12. Decisions regarding the extent of transport arrangements, including the provision of any financial assistance, are for local authorities to make following appropriate consultation.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he proposes to allocate to the National Citizen Service in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [76288]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 21 October 2011]*: Funding for NCS will come from a wide range of sources. 2011 pilot providers have secured funding from a range of sources that includes business donations, in-kind support from providers themselves, private philanthropic donations, local fundraising and small contributions from participants and their families. Discussions are ongoing with providers for the delivery of NCS in 2012. The level of government investment will be dependant on funding secured from other sources.

The Government allocation for 2013 and 2014 is dependant on the level of funding secured from other sources.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Job Vacancies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus was in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* constituency in each of the last five years. [78103]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the ratio of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants per vacancy notified to Jobcentre Plus was in each (a) region (b) local authority area and (c) constituency in each of the last five years. (78103)

In Table 1, we have provided the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) per Jobcentre Plus vacancy for each region, local authority area and constituency for September 2007, September 2008, September 2009, August 2010 and September 2011 which is the latest period available. Figures for September 2010 are not available so as an alternative August 2010 figures have been provided. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74358]

Mr O'Brien: I have deposited in the Library a table of our building and refurbishment costs for the current and next financial year. The total building and refurbishment costs for the current financial year is £2.61 million. We do not yet have completed plans in place for our projects in the next financial year so forecast costs are unknown at this stage.

Please find as follows confirmed building and refurbishment costs for the current year:

Location	*Description*	*Forecast costs for 2011-12 (£)*
South Sudan Juba	Construction of a second storey extension to the existing UK Government shared building.	1,700,000
Nigeria Kano	Construction of a new building.	961,000
South Africa Pretoria	Refurbishment of the British high commission building that allows co-location of the Department for International Development (DFID) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).	[1]—

[1] Not known at this time. (Refurbishment project planned, but not yet commissioned for the current financial year)

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77369]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As Secretary of State for International Development my responsibilities include meeting and speaking with a wide range of organisations in the UK and overseas about international development. Details of meetings and events undertaken by DFID Ministers can be found on the DFID website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Our-organisation/Ministers/

Information on officials is not collected centrally.

CABINET OFFICE

Third Sector Organisations

9. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to increase co-operation between the civil service and third sector organisations. [77760]

Mr Hurd: We refreshed the compact last year and have asked the National Audit Office (NAO) to review how it is being implemented. Current plans are that this report will be published in early December by the NAO.

We are also targeting 30,000 days of volunteering by civil servants per year.

10. **Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effects of spending decisions by local authorities on funding for third sector organisations in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [77761]

Mr Hurd: We are working with strategic partners to monitor the situation.

The new best value guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the refreshed compact, the transition fund and the infrastructure fund have all been put in place to support the sector through a very challenging time.

Public Service Mutuals

11. **Richard Graham:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to encourage public sector mutuals. [77762]

Mr Maude: We have announced 21 Mutual Pathfinders to help us understand the best ways to enable and develop mutuals on an ongoing basis. The Mutuals Taskforce will provide advice and challenge to the Government in this area.

We are also putting in place the support that these organisations may need in order to become a success. The Mutuals Support Programme will provide help, advice and guidance to support fledgling mutuals.

Cyber Security

12. **Sajid Javid:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his priorities are for the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance. [77763]

Mr Maude: My priorities include:

Publishing a National Cyber Security Strategy and co-ordinating delivery of the strategy across government and the wider economy;

Overseeing the National Cyber Security Programme, which manages the £650 million investment in transforming the UK's cyber security capability; and

Working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to develop new and innovative partnerships with the private sector on cyber security issues.

Open Government Partnership

13. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential role of the Open Government Partnership in promoting openness and transparency. [77764]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr Clappison) at Cabinet Office oral questions earlier today.

Cobra: Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* names and *(b)* positions were of non-security services civil servants who attended COBR committee meetings since May 2010. [77790]

Mr Maude: Attendance at COBR meetings is determined by the nature of the challenge under consideration, but includes representatives from a range of Government Departments and other organisations and agencies as appropriate. The names and positions of individuals attending internal meetings, such as these, are not normally released.

Construction: Manpower

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [78150]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the construction industry in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [78150]

The Business Register Employment Survey (BRES) and it predecessor, the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), are the most comprehensive sources of employee estimates at a detailed regional and geographical level. Both BRES and the ABI provide employee estimates based on business survey data collected on a specific reference date during each year.

I attach a table showing the numbers of employees engaged in the construction sector in Jarrow parliamentary constituency (available from 2003 onwards only), South Tyneside county district, the North East region and Great Britain from the earliest year available (1998) to the most recent (2010). Unfortunately, a time series is not available for the UK.

Count of employees 1998 to 2008 (ABI)

	Jarrow (parliamentary constituency available from2003 onwards)	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*Great Britain*
1998	—	2,800	51,700	1,108,000
1999	—	3,000	56,400	1;130,600
2000	—	1,700	55,800	1,127,800
2001	—	2,200	56,800	1,156,200
2002	—	2,000	54,400	1,163,200
2003	1,000	1,800	53,200	1,137,900
2004	1,300	2,200	57,500	1,180,900
2005	1,800	2,800	61,800	1,212,900
2006	1,400	2,200	59,700	1,258,500
2007	1,300	2,400	58,900	1,290,500
2008	1,400	1,900	58,100	1,268,800

Notes:

1. ABI 2006 discontinuity. Estimates for 2005 and earlier are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards, mainly due to a change in the survey reference date from December to September. Users should avoid directly comparing employment estimates over the discontinuity, which has been marked on the table with a blank row.
2. ABI 2003 Geographic discontinuity. The 2003 ABI data for aggregate areas is based on 2003 CAS wards which differs from previous years ABI data which was build from 1991 census wards. This will give rise to discontinuities when comparing 2003 data with previous years.
3. ABI 2003 Industrial discontinuity. The 2003 ABI data is based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003 which differs from previous years ABI data. This may give rise to discontinuities.

Count of employees 2008 to 2010 (BRES)

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*Great Britain*
2008	1,400	1,800	58,800	1,364,200
2009	1,700	2,200	60,500	1,262,700
2010	1,400	1,700	50,000	1,146,700

Note:

Care should be taken when comparing the results from BRES with those from ABI as BRES uses different methodology for calculating the estimates and is based on SIC 2007 rather than SIC 2003.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77351]

Mr Maude: The assets with a value of £250,000 or more that have been bought by the Cabinet Office during this period all support projects to modernise its central London headquarters at 70 Whitehall and to improve the efficiency of its Information Technology infrastructure. Details of costs can be found at the Cabinet Office transparency website:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-co

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77350]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has recorded four laptops, one mobile and eight BlackBerrys lost or missing since May 2010. No classified material was held on these devices.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77613]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is taking forward the Government's commitments to give public sector workers new rights to spin out to form new enterprises and continue to deliver public services, including through new mutuals and cooperatives. These rights will not be uniform across organisations.

Within the Cabinet Office the transformation of My Civil Service Pension is under way. The company has been created, and we are currently in the process of identifying a private sector partner for My Civil Service Pension. As this process is underway at the moment it would be inappropriate to make any further statement at this time.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding his Department allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77991]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 431, to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Nia Griffith).

Government Departments: Databases

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effect of the Open Data project; what account he will take of this assessment in determining the future of the project; and if he will make a statement. [77581]

Mr Maude: Transparency is a new way of operating in Government. Central and local government and wider public services have been made more accountable to the public, aided, by the release of over 7,500 datasets (including over 800 geographical linked datasets) via data.gov.uk. These datasets have enabled the public to view and track instances of crime in their area with police.uk having received hundreds of millions of hits since its launch; scrutinise Ministers' expenses, and; interrogate central and local government contracts. Originally targeted at technical experts and software developers, we are reviewing and repackaging data.gov.uk so that it can serve the general public more directly, as well as meet the needs of developers.

The Government launched the Open Data consultation, "Making Open Data Real", on 4 August. This included an assessment of the positive effects of Open Data, demonstrating that it can have a transformative effect on public services; improving outcomes and productivity through informed comparison; driving dynamic economic growth; enabling accountability, and transforming social relationships through empowering individuals and communities. The consultation and the forthcoming White Paper represent the next phase of the Transparency agenda, moving away from a simple accountability model, towards embedding openness and transparency as core operating principles of public services. The White Paper will contain a full impact assessment of policy proposals and the benefits of Open Data.

The Transparency Team in the Cabinet Office is currently leading on an Open Data work stream within the second phase of the Government's growth review, to be released alongside the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement on 29 November. In this, the Government will set out Open Data's potential to drive economic growth in the UK economy.

Public Service Mutuals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to increase the number of community-owned mutuals; and if he will make a statement. [77398]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* This Government are committed to supporting the creation and expansion of mutuals. Over the last year the 21 Cabinet Office Mutual Pathfinders have provided valuable learning which is being developed into a comprehensive package of support for fledgling mutuals. Many of the pathfinders have developed community engagement and ownership models, leading to responsive services which can innovate to meet local need.

The Cabinet Office is also working with local partners to develop new community focused commissioning models.

Public Bodies Bill

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations he has received on the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill [Lords]. [77579]

Mr Maude: The provisions in the Public Bodies Bill provide powers to Ministers to make reforms to a range of public bodies. Where a reform is proposed to a body listed in the Bill's schedules, Ministers are required to undertake a consultation process. Representations are most appropriately made during the consultation process. The Bill has now completed Third Reading in both Houses. During the passage of the Bill, contributions to debates were made by many Members of both Houses and where representations have been made to me I have ensured they are passed to the relevant Department.

Sick Leave

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce sickness absence in the public sector to the same levels as in the private sector. [77041]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* Cabinet Office hosts a regular cross-sector forum for employers which shares best practice on effective ways to reduce sickness absence.

In the civil service, the average working days lost (AWDL) per staff year has fallen for the fifth consecutive quarter. The AWDL per person in the civil service now stands at 7.3 days. This compares to a private sector average of 7.1 days per person according to recent reports by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development and 5.9 days per person according to the Confederation of British Industry. The figures for the public sector are 9.1 days and 8.1 days respectively.

AWDL in the civil service is currently at its lowest reported figure since 1999.

More information about reducing sickness absence in the civil service can be found at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/health-and-wellbeing/sickness-absence

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will set and publish targets for the number of new *(a)* charities, *(b)* co-operatives, *(c)* employee-owned mutuals, *(d)* community-owned mutuals, *(e)* social enterprises and *(f)* other third sector organisations in the UK by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [78210]

Mr Hurd: The creation of new civil society organisations is a matter for citizens and communities; it is not for Government to prescribe targets in this respect.

The Government are committed to supporting citizens and communities to play a bigger role in shaping how communities work and how public services get delivered. This includes measures to support the growth of civil society, through making it easier to set up and run a charity or social enterprise, making it easier to work with the state, and getting more resources into the sector.

United Kingdom Statistics Authority: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by UK Statistics Authority using the Government Procurement Card from the date of its establishment to May 2010. [73491]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 1 November 2011:

As Principal Accounting Officer for the UK Statistics Authority (including the Office for National Statistics) I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) date of purchase, (b) amount, (c) supplier and (d) level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was, for each transaction undertaken by the UK Statistics Authority using Government Procurement Cards from the date of its establishment to May 2010. (73491). I am sorry for the delay in my reply.

It is our policy to use the Government Procurement Card as an efficient way of processing low value transactions. All transactions made using Government Procurement Cards are subject to the same stringent controls process and authorisation as in our travel and subsistence and procure to pay systems.

Tables providing a breakdown of expenditure by (i) the UK Statistics Authority and (ii) the Office for National Statistics using Government Procurement Cards for the period May 2009 - May 2010 will be placed in the House of Commons Library. Information for the previous period requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

We are actively looking at how we can expand on datasets already published to include the publication of Government Procurement Card expenditure over £500.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Keith Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what preparations his Department has made for co-ordinating the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. [76067]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Traditionally, we mark the anniversary of the conclusion of a conflict rather than its beginning. So the main commemorations will be on the centenary of the end of the first world war in 1918. However, given the importance of the centenary of world war one a number of anniversaries of key events from 2014 to 2018, including the beginning of the war, will be marked in an appropriate way. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), to act as his Special Representative and Co-ordinator for World War I Commemorations. My hon. Friend will work with international partners to ensure that the UK plays a full and active role; and will co-ordinate the cross-Whitehall effort in respect of the commemorations.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the possible effect of the relocation of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to his Department on the activities of unlicensed gangmasters in the agricultural sector; and when he last met ministerial colleagues from DEFRA to discuss this issue. [78033]

Mr Davey: There are currently no plans to relocate the Gangmasters Licensing Authority from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to BIS. Therefore, no assessment has been made of the effect this might have. I last met with colleagues from DEFRA to discuss this and other issues on 14 September 2010, when we agreed that in the short term our priority should be ensuring that the current enforcement arrangements worked well.

Under the Review of Workplace Rights Compliance and Enforcement we are looking at the scope to streamline activity and increase effectiveness. The review will be looking at a wide-range of different compliance and enforcement models. All options are on the table. As outlined in the ministerial statement of 12 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 29-30WS, we will need to consider any eventual outcomes in the light of consultations under the employment strand of the Red Tape Challenge.

Trade: Developing Countries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to work towards a conclusion to the Doha round in 2011. [78045]

Mr Davey: While it is now clear that the full Doha development round will not be concluded in 2011, the Government are continuing to press for the best possible outcome at the 8th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in December this year. We are working closely with the European Commission, EU member states and other WTO members to ensure that there is a clear way forward for the Doha round in 2012 which delivers trade liberalisation, strengthens the multilateral system and advances the interests of poor countries.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77860]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77861]

Mr Davey: Please refer to the publicly available booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within this Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77862]

Mr Davey: Please refer to the publicly available booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within this Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Please refer to the quarterly publication of the list of special advisers which is available in the Libraries of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77863]

Mr Davey: National security vetting at counter terrorist check, security check and developed vetting level for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is undertaken by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office services.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 November 2011

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 366W, on Government Procurement Card, what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the authority using the Government Procurement Card from its creation to date. [73442]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, 11 October 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for details of transactions undertaken on the two Government Procurement Cards held by IPSA staff, pursuant to the answer to question 68889.

The requested information is being placed in the House of Commons Library.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 366W, on Government Procurement Card, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will make it its policy to routinely publish all detailed spending on the Government Procurement Card on its website. [73443]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, 11 October 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will make it its policy to routinely publish all detailed spending on the Government Procurement Card on its website.

IPSA plans to publish routinely details of spending on Government Procurement Cards on its website in due course. We are currently considering the appropriate cycle for publication of this information.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Corruption

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General what guidance he has issued to Ministers and officials in the Law Officers' Department to ensure their actions are compliant with the UK's obligations under Article 5 of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. [78287]

The Solicitor-General: Guidance on the need for prosecutors to comply with the UK's obligations under article 5 of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention was most recently issued in March 2010. The guidance was issued jointly by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of the Serious Fraud Office.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General how many people were in possession of a security pass for the Law Officers' departments headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77944]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is detailed as follows.

	Number of passes held by individuals who are not staff or contractors		
	Treasury Solicitors Department	*HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate*	*Serious Fraud Office*
May 2010	16	5	22
June 2010	16	5	23
July 2010	16	5	26
August 2010	17	5	28
September 2010	17	5	29
October 2010	17	5	31
November 2010	19	5	30
December 2010	22	5	26
January 2011	22	5	24
February 2011	23	5	23
March 2011	24	5	26
April 2011	25	2	26
May 2011	26	2	23
June 2011	28	2	24
July 2011	19	2	25
August 2011	20	2	22
September 2011	21	2	22
October 2011	22	0	22

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) only issues security passes to staff and contractors who need access to its headquarters sites in London and York. All other people are issued with escorted visitor day paper passes, which are issued on the day of the visit and collected by security on exit.

The Attorney-General's Office (AGO) does not keep a historical record of passes issued for its headquarters but there are currently 23 passes held by individuals who are not staff or contractors. 22 of these are held by staff of the Office for Budget Responsibility who share the building with the AGO.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010 [77935]

David Mundell: The document HMG Personnel Security Controls is published on the Cabinet Office website and describes the circumstances in which a postholder may be required to undergo national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes. Since May 2010, the Scotland Office head of communications has been Paul Geoghan and the head of the press office has been Clark Dunn. There has been no deputy head of communications.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* Ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77936]

David Mundell: The document HMG Personnel Security Controls is published on the Cabinet Office website and describes the circumstances in which a postholder may be required to undergo national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77937]

David Mundell: The document HMG Personnel Security Controls is published on the Cabinet Office website and describes the circumstances in which a postholder may be required to undergo national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The names of special advisers are published quarterly. The list is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

There have been no ministerial-appointed policy advisers in the Scotland Office since May 2010.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77938]

David Mundell: The staff in the Scotland Office are employees of other Government bodies mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. It is the responsibility of those bodies to arrange any security vetting.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77939]

David Mundell: The main departmental headquarters of the Scotland Office is Dover House, 66 Whitehall. The information is not recorded in the form requested.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78376]

David Mundell: In the last 12 months, the Scotland Office itself has had one unpaid intern as part of the Whitehall Internship Programme. The only public body the Secretary of State for Scotland is responsible for is the Boundary Commission for Scotland, which had no unpaid or expenses-only internships in this period.

Renewable Energy

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has held with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the location of the proposed Technology and Innovation Centre for renewable energy. [78216]

David Mundell: Decisions on the location of Technology and Innovation Centres, including the Offshore Renewables TIC, are a matter for the Technology Strategy Board, following a process of engagement with business and the research base. Scottish businesses and universities have been actively involved in this programme, and in developing the three TICs announced to date, including High Value Manufacturing and Cell Therapy as well as Offshore Renewables. I am in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), to stay apprised of progress on this and other matters.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parking

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the major refurbishment of the House of Commons underground car park ventilation system scheduled for 2010-12 has been completed; and what recent assessment has been made of the air quality in the underground car park. [77222]

John Thurso: As previously reported to the right hon. Member on 19 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 52W, the project to upgrade fire and safety systems in the underground car park was forecast to commence in early 2012. It is scheduled to begin in March 2012.

In the meantime, to ensure that any air quality problems are swiftly dealt with, the present system is maintained and cleaned in accordance with current industry best practice, to Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association standards.

As part of routine maintenance all the ductwork was cleaned during the summer recess. Additional inspection hatches were installed to ensure that best practice is being adhered to.

The air handling units are regularly maintained and cleaned.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the processing of payments by the Rural Payments Agency. [77661]

Mr Paice: I meet regularly with the Rural Payments Agency chief executive to discuss topical issues, most recently on 21 October to review progress on, and potential indicators of performance for, the processing of payments under the 2011 single payment scheme. The RPA Oversight Board, which I chair, will review these and other performance issues at its next meeting on 2 November.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Business

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will conduct a further impact assessment on the measuring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by companies, taking into account the social and environmental costs and benefits of emissions reporting, before any decision is made on her Department's preferred option; [77798]

(2) when she expects to announce her Department's preferred option for the measuring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by companies. [77988]

Richard Benyon: An impact assessment accompanied the recent consultation on options to improve measuring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by companies. In light of the responses to that consultation, the impact assessment is being updated. A revised one will be published when the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), makes a decision on the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by companies later this autumn.

Lighting: Complaints

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of steps taken by local authorities to investigate complaints of light nuisance using powers under sections 79 and 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [77190]

Richard Benyon: In November 2010, DEFRA published a report entitled 'An Investigation into Artificial Light Nuisance Complaints and Associated Guidance', which examined complaints and how local authorities had dealt with them since the introduction of artificial light as a Statutory Nuisance in 2006.

Based on annual data, the study suggested that on average 12 light nuisance complaints were made per authority each year.

The report showed that the principal resources used by local authorities to support the exercise of their statutory duties were the DEFRA statutory guidance (2006) and the Institute of Lighting Engineers guidance note on the reduction of obtrusive lighting (2005).

Lighting: Greater London

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many notices requiring the abatement of light nuisance, or prohibiting or restricting its occurrence or recurrence, have been issued by London borough councils in the last 12 months. [77191]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold this information. However, the 2010 DEFRA report 'An Investigation into Artificial Light Nuisance Complaints and Associated Guidance' showed that between 2006-09, 4,309 light nuisance complaints were made to 114 local authorities in England, and between 2007-09, 274 complaints were made to eight local authorities in Wales.

As a result of these complaints 32 abatement notices were served. Case examples suggested that authorities had sought an informal resolution wherever possible rather than immediate service of an abatement notice.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the level of *(a)* nuisance lighting and *(b)* light pollution in London. [77220]

Richard Benyon: As stated in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011, the Government have committed to work with industry and other bodies to reduce the negative impacts of artificial light and to protect existing dark areas. Examples of work undertaken to fulfil this commitment include the inclusion of text regarding light pollution within the draft National Planning Policy Framework that requires local planning authorities to ensure light pollution is limited, and the inclusion of guidance on light pollution in the Highways Authority's code of practice for highway lighting management, "Well-lit Highways".

The Government have also committed to consulting relevant organisations this year on whether the exemptions for some types of premises from artificial light statutory nuisance continue to be appropriate. No action is being taken that is specific to London.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are registered in accordance with Article 5 of

EU Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals; and if she will make a statement. [75454]

Richard Benyon: Unless a substance is exempt from the EU Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) it must be registered with the European Chemicals Agency. REACH specifies various deadlines in 2010, 2013 and 2018 by which substances must be registered, depending on the tonnage manufactured or imported. These terms apply to substances used in hydraulic fracturing in the same way as they apply to other industrial processes.

REACH requires member states to establish enforcement arrangements, which in the United Kingdom are set out in The REACH Enforcement Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/2852). The duty to enforce the registration provisions of REACH within the UK lies with the Health and Safety Executive and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.

Veterinary Laboratory Service: Newcastle upon Tyne

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are currently employed in the Veterinary Laboratory Service in Newcastle upon Tyne. [77505]

Richard Benyon: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has three sites in Newcastle upon Tyne.

As at 1 October, the laboratory site at Long Benton has 27 staff in post; 24 work in the Laboratory Services Department (21 full-time and three part-time), and three in the Veterinary Surveillance Department (all full-time).

Water Abstraction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition her Department uses of sustainable abstraction of water from rivers. [77234]

Richard Benyon: Sustainable abstraction is where water can be taken from rivers or from the ground without damage to the environment. The Environment Agency's assessment of damage will consider whether there is, or is a risk of, unacceptable environmental change and will include reference to relevant definitions across a range of environmental legislation, including:

(A) The Water Framework Directive: for surface waters damage would be where there is an impact on the ecology to a level that it is causing failure against good ecological status/potential. For groundwater it would represent failure against good groundwater quantitative status.

(B) The Habitats Directive: environmental damage is where the damage has a 'significant adverse effect on reaching or maintaining the favourable conservation status' of a protected species or habitat.

(C) Sites of Special Scientific Interest: environmental damage is where there has been damage to the flora or fauna notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the EU protected species or natural habitats in the site, and that damage has an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

DEFENCE

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much members of his departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74953]

Mr Philip Hammond: We are in the process of collating the expenses of our senior staff, including non-executive directors, for this period and will publish the details on a quarterly basis on the Ministry of Defence website in due course. I will write once these are published.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77498]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold the information requested centrally as the number of full-time equivalent staff held is a matter for the contractors we employ. However, we do monitor the number of consultancy contracts we place and our total spend on external assistance which has reduced significantly over the past decade. Information about departmental spend on consultancy can be found on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModSpend/ExceptionsToSpendingMoratoria.htm

Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what joint procurement exercises his Department has undertaken with partners in *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Norway, *(d)* Sweden, *(e)* Finland and *(f)* Denmark. [74112]

Peter Luff: The UK is engaged in the following equipment programmes, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis, with France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. We are currently engaged in no collaborative equipment programmes with Finland.

France

	Equipment programme
Manufacture/ in-service	Olympus/Tyne Gas Turbines
	NATO Submarine Rescue System
	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
	Multiple Launch Rocket System In-Service Support
	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	Counter Battery Radar (COBRA)
	Principal Ami Air Missile System (PAAMS)
	Lynx
	Puma
	Gazelle
	RTM322 Helicopter Engine
	NATO Improved Link Eleven
	NAVSTAR GPS

France

	Equipment programme
Demonstration	Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
	A400M
	Functional Integration of Electro-Magnetic Sensors
	Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy)
Concept	ACCOLADE
	40mm Cannon

Germany

	Equipment programme
Manufacture/ in-service	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System
	Multiple Launch Rocket System In-Service Support
	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	Counter Battery Radar (COBRA)
	M3 Amphibious Bridge
	Sidewinder Air-to-Air Missile
	Typhoon
	Tornado
	NATO Improved Link Eleven
	NAVSTAR GPS
Demonstration	Meteor Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
	A400M

Norway

	Equipment programme
Manufacture/ in-service	NATO Submarine Rescue System
	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	Sidewinder Air-to-Air Missile
	NAVSTAR GPS
Demonstration	Joint Strike Fighter

Sweden

	Equipment programme
Manufacture/ in-service	M3 Amphibious Bridge
Demonstration	Next Generation Light Anti-Armour Weapon (NLAW)
	Meteor

Denmark

	Equipment programme
Manufacture/ in-service	NATO Armament Ballistics Kernel
	C-130J Hercules In-Service Software Upgrade
	NAVSTAR GPS
	EH101 Helicopter
Demonstration	Joint Strike Fighter

Apart from these committed programmes, we have a number of mechanisms under which we cooperate to exchange information and identify potential new joint projects. With both Norway and Sweden we have general "Defence Materiel Cooperation" Memorandum of Understandings under which meetings are arranged to discuss equipment issues of mutual interest. We are also conducting a structured dialogue with Germany, which includes potential equipment cooperation. We currently have no general procurement discussions with either Denmark or Finland.

Following the UK/France summit on 2 November 2010 we are investigating cooperation with France in a number of areas of defence acquisition. These include support to the A400M aircraft, Submarine Technologies and Systems, Maritime Mine Counter Measures, Satellite Communications, Unmanned Air Systems, Complex Weapons and Research and Technology.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77880]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77881]

Mr Robathan: Circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks are described in the HMG Personnel Security Controls document which is available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The Ministry of Defence Head of Communications is the Director Media and Communication (DMC); this post is currently held by Mr Simon Wren who has been in post since March 2011. Prior to this Mr Nick Gurr held the post since 2007. The Head of News is Mr James Shelley. DMC does not have a Deputy Head of Communications.

European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 872W, on the European Fighter Aircraft, what estimate he has made of the cost of the flying time from *(a)* RAF Leuchars and *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth for each range complex. [77140]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* Flying time between bases and range or training areas can vary according to the training activities pursued in transit.

However, the investment appraisal of basing the Typhoon Fleet at Lossiemouth allowed an additional 300 flying hours a year for each RAF Lossiemouth based Typhoon Squadron at an annual cost of £3.4 million per squadron. This was in recognition of the additional transit times to ranges and training areas compared to RAF Leuchars.

I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), gave on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 84-85W. It was judged that these and other costs associated with relocating the Leuchars Typhoon at RAF Lossiemouth were outweighed by wider savings and other benefits to defence.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Antisocial Behaviour Orders were issued in each local authority for each category of anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years. [77401]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 31 October 2011]*: These data are not available in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was for processing legacy asylum cases in the latest period for which figures are available. [78106]

Damian Green: Cases dealt with under the remit of the legacy casework programme were the older, previously unresolved cases.

Due to the complex nature and variable age of the cases within the legacy cohort, many cases predated the Asylum Case Information Database (ACID). This means that it is not possible to provide a reliable assessment of the average processing time for such cases; to attempt to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on asylum, whether 479,000 or 455,000 asylum cases under the legacy programme have been fully concluded. [78154]

Damian Green: As Jonathan Sedgwick, then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency, reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme have been fully concluded.

Criminal Records Bureau: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the Criminal Records Bureau office at Princes Dock, Liverpool. [77970]

Lynne Featherstone: As a result of the recent reviews of both the Vetting and Barring Scheme and Criminal Records Regime we have decided to merge the functions of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to create a new non departmental public body, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This is provided for in the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

The date for establishment of the new organisation is yet to be determined and is subject to parliamentary timetabling. There will be no requirement for either the CRB or ISA to relocate as part of the transition into the DBS.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78117]

Damian Green: The Home Office sponsors seven executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) that have discretion to employ their own staff who are classed as public servants rather than civil servants as they do not work directly for the Crown. Details of civil servants employed, directly or otherwise, are included in the following table.

	2000		*2005*		*2007*		*2010*		*Most recent data*	
	Direct	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*
Equality and Human Rights Commission[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	2	0	2	0	7
Independent Police Complaints Commission[2]	n/a	n/a	0	13	1	5	0	2	0	16
Independent Safeguarding Authority[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	0	1
National Policing Improvement Agency[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	82	0	22	0	38
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner[5]	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Security Industry Authority[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	2000		2005		2007		2010		Most recent data	
	Direct	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*	*Direct*	*Other*
Serious Organised Crime Agency[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	12	0	19	0	31

[1] Most recent data from 20 September 2011. EHRC established 2007 and joined the Home Office 1 April 2011.
[2] Most recent data from 31 October 2011. IPCC established 2004.
[3] Most recent data from 31 October 2011. ISA established 2008.
[4] Most recent data from 31 October 2011. NPIA established 2006.
[5] Most recent data from 11 September 2011. OISC established 2000.
[6] For the SIA the information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[7] Most recent data from 30 September 2011. SOCA established 2006.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department and the bodies for which she is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78050]

Damian Green: In line with the Prime Minister's commitment to improve transparency about how the Government spend public money, the Home Office and non-departmental public bodies are required to publish a snapshot of the Department on a rolling six monthly basis. This snapshot includes a remuneration report which shows the salaries of posts. We have collated this information into the relevant bands required and produced one figure for the overall Department, agencies and bodies. These figures show all employees which includes public servants, civil servants and non civil servants.

Table 1: Employees of the Home Office, its Executive agencies or the Non-departmental public bodies by salary band

Question	*Salary bands*	*Number of posts*
(a)	£44,053 to £94,999	391
(b)	£95,000 to £139,999	50
(c)	£140,000 to £174,999	10
(d)	£175,000+	[1]8
Total		459

[1] Of these employees five are from HMIC two from headquarters and one from EHRC.

Notes:

1. This information identifies all posts, whether or not they are vacant.
2. These figures represent civil servants, public servants and non civil servants.
3. Some posts have been excluded for reasons of national security.
4. Full-time rate of pay or total pay includes base pay plus any contractual taxable allowances but excludes bonuses.
5. Employees on loan or secondment out of the body (where the organisation is not paying any of the salary) have been excluded from the exercise.
6. This information includes salaries with a minimum band of £44,053 but a maximum band of £72,986 to ensure all relevant salaries are captured.

Source:

Transparency Agenda Salary information published on the Home Office website.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78136]

Damian Green: Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral part of staff reward package in the Home Office and its agencies. They encourage and reward high performance. As non-consolidated payments, they have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs, for example pension costs.

The data in the table include information from the Home Office (including the UK Border Agency), Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

One individual may receive a payment under one or more schemes. The data show the number of payments made, not the number of staff in receipt of payment. The payments relate to the performance year, with payment being made in the subsequent year.

Table A

Performance year	*Payments made*
2007-08	15,326
2008-09	14,148
2009-10	15,981
2010-11	8,857

Regulation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by her Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78109]

Damian Green: No departmental figures exist for 1990 and 1995. The number of Home Office England and Wales statutory instruments (which includes ministerial orders where they are SIs) made between 1 January 1999 and 20 October 2011 is as follows:

	Total per year
1999	113
2000	152
2001	137
2002	137
2003	157
2004	149
2005	131
2006	111
2007	103
2008	96
2009	88
2010	84
2011	60 (to date)

There are no other pieces of secondary legislation which are recorded for these years.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were in possession of a security pass for her main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77919]

Damian Green: Following satisfactory security checks, permanent building passes are issued to Home Office Department staff, contractors/agency staff and/or individuals who are required to work in or have a legitimate business requirement to access the Home Office Department headquarters. These are excluded from the scope of the above question.

We are unable to easily disaggregate the numbers of other Government Department staff issued with Home Office building passes since May 2010. However, we would confirm that our procedures require that their security clearance is verified with their home Department before a pass is granted.

An appropriate security management regime is in place for visitors who are issued with temporary passes to access the Home Department headquarters on each visit, which are then surrendered on exit. We do not have readily available records for how many visitors were issued with temporary passes since May 2010 across all Home Office buildings.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each public body for which she is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78381]

Damian Green: In 2011 the Home Office provided unpaid placements for three interns through the Whitehall Social Mobility programme. Information on all unpaid or expenses-only internships is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals convicted of offences in the UK and subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have *(a)* been deported, *(b)* been permitted to remain in the UK and *(c)* successfully appealed against a deportation order; [75560]

(2) how many foreign nationals living in the UK are subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements; and what offences they have committed. [75561]

Damian Green: To establish how many foreign national offenders subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements are living in the UK, have been allowed to remain on human rights grounds and the type of offence committed in the UK would require cross referencing a large volume of electronic records, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

As part of the Home Office, the UK Border Agency is not obliged to comply with any information request where the prescribed costs of supplying the information exceed £600. The £600 limit applies to all central Government Departments and is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 3.5 days work per request. Prescribed costs include those which cover the cost of locating and retrieving information, and preparing a response. They do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or disbursements such as photocopying or postage.

857 foreign nationals convicted of an offence subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have been deported from the UK between October 2010 and September 2011.

138 foreign nationals convicted of an offence subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have successfully appealed against deportation between October 2010 and September 2011.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of domestic violence her Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which her Department is responsible. [77010]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The Home Office adheres to the current cross-government definition which defines domestic violence as:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality[1]".

We are not aware of any qualifications of the definition in respect of particular services and processes for which the Home Office is responsible.

There is a commitment in the Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan to

> "consult on a revised definition of domestic violence to take into account younger victims".

This action is to be completed by December 2011.

[1] Recognises Female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'. Adult is any person aged 18 and over, family members are: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents; directly related, in-laws or step-family.

Entry Clearances

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 681-82W, on foreign workers, what assessment the 2010 review of labour migration routes made of the likely change in the number of intra-company transfer applications for Indian nationals; and what estimate of any such change she has made for each of the next five years. [77973]

Damian Green: The Government's assessment of the impact of their policies to reduce net migration on the intra-company transfer (ICT) route was set out in an impact assessment published at the time.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1279-80W, on overseas students: entry clearances, what the principal issues of concern were which were raised by religious education colleges. [78290]

Damian Green: The principle issues of concern raised by religious education colleges in relation to Tier 4 of the Points Based System have related to international students' entitlements to work and bring dependants, and the impact of the UK Border Agency's new educational oversight and Highly Trusted Sponsor requirements.

The Government have been clear that genuine high quality education institutions have nothing to fear from our reforms of student visas, which ensure that we attract the best students whose main motivation is study.

Federation of Student Islamic Societies

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to engage with Islamic students; and if she will make a statement. [77983]

James Brokenshire: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which is the Department responsible for universities, engages with students on a range of issues that may affect them while they are at university.

The National Union of Students, who have an advisory group which looks at issues affecting faith groups in Higher and Further Education, also provides regular feedback.

Harassment

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 46W, on police: harassment warnings, what her Department's policy is on monitoring the effects of issuing harassment warnings. [77959]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold information centrally on the effects of harassment warnings.

Knives: Crime

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of knife crime by people under 18 years old were recorded in *(a)* North Wales and *(b)* Aberconwy constituency in each of the last four years; [77776]

(2) how many incidents of knife crime were recorded in *(a)* North Wales and *(b)* Aberconwy constituency in each of the last four years. [77992]

Nick Herbert: Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected by the Home Office since April 2007. From these data, it is not possible to identify which offences specifically involved the use of a knife.

Data are collected at police force area level only, so they are not available for Aberconwy constituency. Additionally, suspect data are not collected, so they cannot be broken down by suspect age.

In 2007-08, North Wales police force recorded 111 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument for a select group of offences. The offences were: homicide, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery.

In 2008-09 the offence coverage was expanded to also include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08. In 2008-09, North Wales police force recorded 136 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument.

The corresponding figure for 2009-10 was 100 offences.

Data for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument for 2010-11 will be available at police force area level from January 2012. The total of other offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by North Wales police in 2010-11 was 138 offences (as above, this figure comprises attempted murder, threats to kill, GBH, ABH, robbery, rape and sexual assault but excludes homicides).

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of knife crime were recorded in *(a)* North Kent and *(b)* Kent in each of the last four years. [78285]

Nick Herbert: Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected by the Home Office since April 2007. From these data, it is not possible to identify which offences specifically involved the use of a knife.

Data are collected at police force area level only, so they are not available for North Kent.

In 2007-08, Kent police force recorded 332 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument for a select group of offences. The offences were: homicide, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery.

In 2008-09 the offence coverage was expanded to also include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08. In 2008-09, Kent police force recorded 556 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. The corresponding figure for 2009-10 was 386 offences.

Data for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument for 2010-11 will be available at police force area level from January 2012. The total of other offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by Kent police in 2010-11 was 343 offences (as above, this figure comprises attempted murder, threats to kill, GBH, ABH, robbery, rape and sexual assault but excludes homicides).

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times her Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78076]

Damian Green: The legal adviser's branch of the Department comprises some 50 lawyers who provide a constant flow of oral and written advice to Ministers as one of their main functions. The same applies to the lawyers in the Government Equalities Office which is part of the Home Office. No records are kept of the quantity of advice given per year.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) her Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by her Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review; [78092]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by her Department in the first six months of 2011; [78072]

(3) how many times her Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78060]

Damian Green: In financial years 2007-08, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Department (including the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS)) spent £35,618,000, £34,045,000 and £35,619,421, respectively on legal advice. This includes staff in our Legal Adviser's Branch as well as litigation services provided by the Treasury Solicitor, counsels' fees and legal services provided outside Government. No separate figures exist for the first six months of 2011.

The amount spent on instructing counsel in each of those financial years was £6,577,167, £5,645,523 and £6,204,991 respectively.

No central records are kept of the number of cases that actually went to court.

The numbers of judicial review cases opened for the Department (including UKBA and IPS) during those financial years was 5,313, 7,145, and 7,583 respectively.

No central record was kept of the outcome of such cases/judicial reviews for the years in question.

The cost of internal legal advice obtained by the Department for the financial year 2010-11 was £5,469,000 (the budget for the Legal Adviser's Branch in that year as well the budget for lawyers working in UKBA's cash forfeiture team).

The cost of external legal advice during that financial year was £30,150,421 which includes litigation services provided by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, counsels' fees and legal services provided outside Government. No separate figures exist for the first six months of 2011.

No central records are kept of the number of times the Department seeks legal advice from external counsel.

Prostitution: Olympic Games 2012

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Metropolitan Police, *(b)* the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* women's groups on the prevention of street-based prostitution (i) in advance of and (ii) during the London 2012 Olympics. [78338]

James Brokenshire: I have had no such specific discussions.

Currently, we are not anticipating significant increases in street-based prostitution relating to the Games. Intelligence on human trafficking, including trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, is assessed on a quarterly basis as part of the Olympic Strategic Threat Assessment. It is anticipated that such activity would be the primary cause of any substantive rise in prostitution, and current evidence does not suggest that there is any increase in human trafficking linked to the Olympics at the moment. Despite this, we remain vigilant. We have law enforcement measures in place to deal with any potential increase in the threat. The Human Exploitation and Organised Crime Operational Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service are working to disrupt prostitution and recover victims, including victims of trafficking, in the five Olympic boroughs in London. If the evidence indicates an increase in trafficking we shall ensure that appropriate measures are put in place.

This Government are committed to tackling the harm and exploitation to individuals, impact on communities, and links to organised crime, that can be associated with prostitution. We have published a review of effective practice in responding to prostitution, to empower local areas to respond to local issues.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC World Service

15. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the future of the BBC World Service. [78187]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I discussed the future of the BBC World Service with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), in the context of the spending review and the licence fee settlement in October 2010. Following that, officials from both Departments, together with the BBC Trust and the World Service, discussed the details of how the changes should be formalised in the amended BBC Agreement, which was laid in Parliament in September 2011. I have had no other discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the World Service.

World Athletics Championships

16. **Mary Macleod:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department has provided for London's bid to host the 2017 World Athletics championships; and if he will make a statement. [78188]

Hugh Robertson: My Department has worked closely with UK Athletics in developing their bid and has provided the necessary financial and security guarantees in its support.

I personally represented the Government at October's successful Evaluation Commission visit—during the party conference. I am visiting the International Association of Athletics Federations tomorrow with Lord Coe, the bid President, and will be part of the team making the final bid presentation next Friday. The Prime Minister is also backing the bid.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [76382]

John Penrose: The number of civil servants in this Department who received performance related payments and in-year performance payments in each year since 2007 is shown in the following table:

	Total number of civil servants	*Number receiving in-year non-consolidated performance related payments*	*Number receiving year-end non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007-08	379	144	235
2008-09	397	178	219
2009-10	399	129	270
2010-11	327	81	246

A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. For the senior civil service (SCS), for whom pay is managed by the Cabinet Office and which is based on recommendations by the Senior Salaries Review Body, performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. For staff outside SCS, Departments operate within the guidelines set by the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77870]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* Ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77871]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77872]

John Penrose: It would not be appropriate to list out details of individual staff vetting levels. All staff in the Department are vetted to an appropriate level, according to guidance set out in HMG Personnel Security Controls, which can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77873]

John Penrose: The Department uses the Defence Business Services National Security Vetting Agency to undertake its security vetting.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77874]

John Penrose: The information the hon. Gentleman has requested is set out in the following table:

	Number of security passes
2010	
May	42
June	42
July	44
August	46
September	46
October	46
November	51
December	51
2011	
January	53
February	63
March	63
April	83
May	83
June	148
July	202
August	219
September	229
October	233

The increase from June 2011 is because of the occupation of the 5th and 6th floors in Cockspur street, the Department's main offices. Private tenants who work within the Department's main building in Cockspur street do not have access to the Department's occupied floors.

E-mails

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* emails, *(b)* letters and *(c)* meetings (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the National Planning Policy Framework in the last six months. [R] [77961]

Hugh Robertson: Both Ministers and officials in this Department are in regular contact with colleagues at the Department for Communities and Local Government by e-mail, letter and meetings, and discuss a full range of issues, including the National Planning Policy Framework.

Gambling: Young People

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department is taking steps to publicise the negative effects of gambling *(a)* in general and *(b)* on younger people. [76658]

John Penrose: Industry funding for problem gambling research, education and treatment (which includes education about the potential negative effects of gambling) is currently channelled through the Responsible Gambling Fund (RCF), who made grants and awarded contracts worth £5.7 million in 2010-11. Details about the full range of research education and prevention programmes supported by them, including their youth education programme can be found at:

http://www.rgfund.org.uk/

News International

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings his Department has had with representatives of News International; and whether the BBC licence fee settlement was discussed at any such meeting. [77580]

Mr Vaizey: A list of meetings with media organisations by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has been published on the Department's website, and can be found using the link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/26/sos-meetings-with-proprietors-editors-and-senior-media-executives-11may1-15jul11/

The licence fee settlement was not discussed during these meetings.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to organisations other than arm's length bodies in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much he expects to allocate for such purposes in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [77722]

John Penrose: The Department has allocated, or plans to allocate, the following grants to organisations other than our arm's length bodies, in the years 2010-11 to 2014-15.

	£ million[1]
2010-11	95.36
2011-12	84.911
2012-13	64.079
2013-14	73.517
2014-15	55.549

[1] The amounts shown are net of income and therefore represent the funding allocated directly by the Department from its own settlement.

Tourism

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the attractiveness of the UK as an international tourist destination. [78180]

John Penrose: Results from the recently released Anholt Nation Brand Index Survey 2011 reveal that the UK was ranked third out of 50 nations on the overall index, one place higher than was the case in 2010. The survey relates to arts and culture, heritage and historic environment, natural beauty, city life and urban attractions, and the welcome provided to overseas visitors.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77486]

Chris Grayling: Consultancy provides management with objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations outside the business-as-usual environment when in-house skills are not available. DWP (Core Department and its Agencies) pays for consultancy on a project basis usually on a fixed fee based on defined outcomes or deliverables. The consultancy supplier is responsible for providing appropriate resource. DWP does not employ consultants on a full-time staff equivalent basis.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78081]

Chris Grayling: Unfortunately, it is not possible to answer this PQ at a reasonable cost. This is because information is not recorded in this form and in order to establish the answer it would be necessary to gather together every file over the relevant period and to go through them to identify each and every occasion on which advice was given. In addition, this exercise may not identify every case in which oral advice was given.

For that reason the probable cost of answering the PQ would be well in excess of £800.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77596]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 I have received no applications from employees to run services for which my Department is responsible.

My Department continues to engage with the Cabinet Office which has overall responsibility for developing the provision of public service mutuals/right to provide across the public sector.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77854]

Chris Grayling: The Department occupies the vast majority of its properties under the terms of a 20-year PFI contract with Telereal Trillium (TT), for which it pays a unitary charge in return for fully fitted and serviced accommodation. This includes responsibility for issuing temporary security passes to visitors. The Department has 13 head office buildings across the country located in London, Sheffield, Leeds, the North West and North East of England. From the information held, details on the number of security passes excluding staff and contractors, issued location by location is given on the table. A summary of the monthly figures is given as follows:

	Number of passed issued
May 2010	14,345
June 2010	14,000
July 2010	15,005
August 2010	12,452
September 2010	15,785
October 2010	15,264
November 2010	17,082
December 2010	11,487
January 2011	15,716
February 2011	15,999
March 2011	18,931
April 2011	13,487
May 2011	15,727
June 2011	17,628
July 2011	15,625
August 2011	12,881
September 2011	15,752
October 2011	15,586

Disability Living Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were in receipt of disability living allowance as a result of musculoskeletal disorders in the latest period for which figures are available. [78402]

Maria Miller: The percentage of people in receipt of DLA as a result of musculoskeletal disorders in November 2010 was as follows:

	Total	*Percentage*
Musculoskeletal disorders	1,098,500	34.5

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate 5% sample.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of disability living allowance had a learning disability *(a)* as a main disabling condition and *(b)* in addition to a main disabling condition which was not a learning disability in each year since 2008. [78408]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Disability living allowance cases in payment where the main disabling condition or secondary condition[1] is learning difficulties

	All	*Learning difficulties as main disabling condition*	*Learning difficulties as secondary disabling condition*
February			
2011	3,192,100	379,900	46,600
2010	3,137,700	353,600	31,300
2009	3,044,000	327,400	[2]—
2008	2,945,600	293,500	35,200

[1] In October 2008 the system used to record disabling condition for DLA recipients changed. Prior to October 2008 disabling conditions were recorded relating to care and/or mobility depending on entitlement to these components, and main and secondary disabling conditions were derived for the purposes of statistical reporting. After October 2008 a primary and secondary code were recorded. Information on secondary condition for February 2009 is not available due to a number of transitional recording issues; the impact of these issues is thought to be reducing over time.

[2] Not available.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.
3. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5% sample. (Some recipients of DLA who transferred from the AA system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time).
5. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%).

Employment and Support Allowance

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to ensure that people in receipt of employment and support allowance in the work related activity group whose conditions have deteriorated over 12 months whilst on the benefit are identified and moved into the support group. [78286]

Chris Grayling: There are two ways in which changes to a claimant's health can lead to a change in the amount of benefit.

Firstly, claimants who are entitled to employment and support allowance (including those in the Work Related Activity Group) will be reassessed at regular intervals through the work capability assessment process.

Secondly, claimants can declare a change in their condition which could affect their entitlement to benefit and they will also be reassessed through the work capability assessment process. Where such arrangements are followed and a decision maker decides that there is sufficient evidence, claimants will be moved to the support group.

Flexible New Deal Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the publication by providers in the Flexible New Deal programme of their own performance data. [77966]

Chris Grayling: The arrangements for releasing Flexible New Deal information were established by the last Government.

Housing Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on exempting single pregnant local housing allowance claimants from the shared accommodation rate limit. [70145]

Steve Webb: Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. This was due to an administrative error. No exemption is made for single pregnant claimants from the shared accommodation rate. The local authority can consider making a discretionary housing payment where they think it appropriate to meet such a need.

Industrial Accidents: Construction

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK died in the workplace in each year since 1997. [78151]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

Fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry[1] as reported to all enforcing authorities 1997-98 to 2010-11[2]

	South Tyneside[3]		*North East[4]*		*Great Britain[5]*	
	Employees	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*
1997-98	—	—	2	1	58	22
1998-99	—	—	—	—	47	18
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	61	20
2000-01	—	—	1	—	73	32
2001-02	—	—	8	—	60	20
2002-03	—	—	3	—	56	14
2003-04	—	1	4	1	52	19
2004-05	—	—	1	1	55	14
2005-06	—	—	3	1	43	17
2006-07		—	1	1	54	25
2007-08	—	—	—	—	53	19
2008-09	—	—	2	1	32	20
2009-10	—	—	1	—	29	12
2010-11[2]	—	—	1	1	32	18

[1] Statistics for the years 1997-98 to 2000-01 are identified by Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) Section F—Construction. For the years 2001-02 and on, statistics are presented on the new basis of 'SIC 2007'. Changes of this nature occur periodically, to reflect how the industrial composition of the economy changes over time.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Identified by local authority code 4520 'South Tyneside'.

[4] Identified by Government Office Region and includes South Tyneside LA.

[5] Includes North East Government Office Region.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of workplace deaths in the construction industry resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each year since 1997. [78152]

Chris Grayling: Detailed information is available only in the form requested from 1999-2000 onwards.

(a) The proportion of workplace deaths in the construction industry that resulted in prosecution are shown in the following table:

Work year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of deaths*	*Proportion resulting in prosecution (percentage)*
1999-2000	87	36
2000-01	113	40
2001-02	85	33
2002-03	75	40
2003-04	75	47
2004-05	77	45
2005-06	64	36
2006-07	86	34
2007-08	75	53

Work year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of deaths*	*Proportion resulting in prosecution (percentage)*
2008-09	57	35
2009-10	45	20
2010-11	[1]52	8

[1] Provisional.

The prosecution figures are based on information available on 31 October 2011.

The numbers of prosecutions for later years, particularly 2009-10 and 2010-11, will increase as it can be a number of years after the fatality before the resulting prosecution comes to court.

The fatality figures are based on deaths reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

2010-11 figures are based on the provisional fatalities statistics.

(b) The proportion of workplace deaths in the construction industry that resulted in conviction (based on the numbers prosecuted) are shown in the following table:

Work year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of deaths*	*Proportion resulting in conviction (percentage)*
1999-2000	87	33
2000-01	113	39
2001-02	85	31
2002-03	75	35
2003-04	75	44
2004-05	77	39
2005-06	64	33
2006-07	86	26
2007-08	75	39
2008-09	57	19
2009-10	45	7
2010-11	[1]52	2

[1] Provisional.

These figures show the proportion of prosecution cases resulting in a conviction based on information available on 31 October 2011.

The numbers of convictions for later years, particularly 2009-10 and 2010-11, will increase as it can be a number of years after the fatality before the related prosecution cases are heard by the courts.

Industrial Health and Safety: Custodial Treatment

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employer representatives were given custodial sentences for offences relating to failure to comply with health and safety legislation in each year since 1997. [78149]

Chris Grayling: The number of custodial sentences for employer representatives from 1998-99 to 2010-11 is shown in the following table:

	Custodial sentences		
	Total	*Suspended prison sentences*	*Prison sentence*
1998-99	1	1	0
1999-2000	1	1	0
2000-01	1	1	0
2001-02	0	0	0
2002-03	1	1	0
2003-04	0	0	0
2004-05	6	5	1
2005-06	2	1	1
2006-07	5	2	3
2007-08	8	1	7
2008-09	6	0	6
2009-10	4	1	3
2010-11	3	1	2

The national figures presented are for Great Britain, and do not include figures for health and safety in Northern Ireland. They are based on prosecutions initiated by HSE and local authorities.

Statistics are available only from 1998-99 onwards and the 2010-11 figures do not include prosecutions taken by local authorities as they are not yet available.

Employer representatives are those individuals with duties under health and safety legislation to safeguard the health and safety of employees and others.

Jobcentre Plus

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobs advertised through Jobcentre Plus in England and Wales *(a)* required a skilled worker and *(b)* were of graduate level in the last seven days for which information is available; and what proportion of these jobs were filled. [76350]

Chris Grayling: The precise information requested is not available. The following table shows the number of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in England and Wales by occupation. This provides a broad guide to the skill level of the vacancies it receives, but there is no specific record of whether vacancies require applicants to be qualified to degree level. Vacancies are normally held for a certain period of time agreed with the employer and closed automatically after this point. It is not therefore possible to say what proportion of vacancies is filled.

As vacancy data are not adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, the monthly average number of notified vacancies is shown for the 12 months to September 2011, the latest month for which information is currently available.

Jobcentre Plus vacancies will represent only a proportion of all new vacancies coming up in the economy. Moreover, the Jobcentre Plus share of all vacancies is likely to vary across different occupations.

Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies: 12 months to September 2011

Occupational group	*Monthly average of notified vacancies*
Managers and senior officials	11,000
Professional occupations	10,000
Associate professional and technical occupations	38,000
Administrative and secretarial occupations	17,000

Jobcentre Plus notified vacancies: 12 months to September 2011

Occupational group	*Monthly average of notified vacancies*
Skilled trades occupations	33,000
Personal service occupations	33,000
Sales and customer service occupations	48,000
Process, plant and machine operatives	46,000
Elementary occupations	66,000

Source:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential for data sharing between Jobcentre Plus and organisations seeking to link jobseekers with mentoring and employment search support; and if he will make a statement. [78396]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to develop a more streamlined service for the delivery of work-related training and careers advice.

The Social Security (Claims and Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, using new powers introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2009, allow the proportionate sharing of data between organisations that are supporting Jobcentre Plus claimants with their employment, skills and training needs.

The regulations remove the need for repeated informed consent to share detailed claimant information. This will support increased joint working between Jobcentre Plus personal advisors, Next Step careers advisers and training providers to bring together the training, mentoring and employment support offered to jobseekers.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres did not meet their targets on reducing the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants in *(a)* the last quarter, *(b)* the last six months and *(c)* the last year; and in which districts they are located. [78218]

Chris Grayling: The departmental planning assumption for 2010-11 operational year was for 90% of claimants to leave jobseeker's allowance within 52 weeks of date of claim.

For the 2011-12 operational year, a more accurate and timely data source has been introduced to provide off-flow rate management information, thus improving the quality of the data. The national planning assumption has been recalibrated to 88% to reflect the new data source for the 2011-12 operational year.

The planning assumptions represent a national average of the performance delivered across all Jobcentres. Individual jobcentre level planning assumptions are not set as labour market conditions vary. It is therefore not possible to provide the detailed information the hon. Member has requested.

Pensions: British Nationals Abroad

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with which countries there is a *(a)* reciprocal agreement and *(b)* legal requirement for the UK state pension payable to UK pensioners living abroad to be uprated. [78321]

Steve Webb: Uprated UK state pensions are payable under reciprocal agreements between the UK and the host country to eligible UK state pension recipients living in the following non-EU/EEA countries: Barbados, Bermuda, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Israel, Jamaica, Jersey, Mauritius, the Philippines, Turkey, the United States of America and the now separate republics of the former Yugoslavia that are not EU member states (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Upratings are also currently paid to eligible UK state pension recipients in the European Economic Area and Switzerland under EU Regulations.

UK state pensions are not uprated in any other country.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the 21 to 60 year old population were out of employment and in receipt of benefits in each year from 1990 to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [77256]

Chris Grayling: The information that is available is given as follows.

The table shows information on claimants aged between 18 and 59 by client group (out of work benefits) 1995-2011. Information prior to May 1995 is not available in the format requested. This has been given for those aged 18-59 because it is a standard age grouping that is regularly published. Information for 21-60 could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

	Total	*Percentage population*	*Jobseeker's Allowance*	*Percentage population*	*Incapacity Benefits*	*Percentage population*	*Other income support*	*Percentage population*
May 1995	5,536,700	17.5	2,179,100	6.9	2,022,000	6.4	1,335,600	4.2
February 1996	5,595,700	17.6	2,180,900	6.9	2,071,100	6.5	1,343,700	4.2
February 1997	5,130,300	16.2	1,722,100	5.4	2,127,600	6.7	1,280,600	4.0
February 1998	4,711,500	14.8	1,337,100	4.2	2,167,000	6.8	1,207,400	3.8
February 1999	4,612,000	14.4	1,276,000	4.0	2,173,700	6.8	1,162,300	3.6
February 2000	4,538,990	14.1	1,127,840	3.5	2,296,270	7.1	1,114,870	3.5
February 2001	4,422,780	13.6	976,290	3.0	2,375,050	7.3	1,071,440	3.3

	Total	Percentage population	Jobseeker's Allowance	Percentage population	Incapacity Benefits	Percentage population	Other income support	Percentage population
February 2002	4,357,470	13.3	931,000	2.8	2,385,470	7.3	1,041,000	3.2
February 2003	4,344,000	13.2	920,920	2.8	2,424,460	7.4	998,620	3.0
February 2004	4,261,210	12.9	842,950	2.5	2,436,320	7.4	981,940	3.0
February 2005	4,158,060	12.5	794,900	2.4	2,424,020	7.3	939,140	2.8
February 2006	4,207,220	12.5	901,370	2.7	2,384,870	7.1	920,990	2.7
February 2007	4,139,240	12.3	874,600	2.6	2,343,520	7.0	921,120	2.7
February 2008	3,989,950	11.8	791,430	2.3	2,304,330	6.8	894,190	2.7
February 2009	4,580,590	13.5	1,394,730	4.1	2,294,840	6.8	891,010	2.6
February 2010	4,671,360	13.7	1,502,680	4.4	2,319,200	6.8	849,480	2.5
February 2011	4,465,600	13.1	1,414,730	4.2	2,272,380	6.7	778,490	2.3

Notes:

1. Figures are 5% sample data from 1995 to 1999, and are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures from 2000 onwards are from 100% WPLS data, and are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.
4. Percentage population figures have been calculated using ONS population estimates from 1996 to 2010.
5. Sample data figures (1995-99) are produced from published client group analysis tables. Rating protocols for client group sample data analysis differ from those applied to individual benefits.
6. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example, a claimant of Income Support and Incapacity Benefit would appear in "Incapacity Benefits" not "Income Support".
7. From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits group" includes Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of Incapacity Benefit (including credits only) or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming IS on the grounds of incapacity.
8. Figures are for Great Britain. Those for Northern Ireland are available from http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/benefit_publications.htm

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5% Sample Data and 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data. ONS mid year population estimates.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that people with a learning disability are able to use easy-read and accessible forms when applying for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* other benefits. [78352]

Chris Grayling: The majority of claims are now taken either online or by telephone, rather than using paper forms. The Department's staff have guidance about how to support people with learning disabilities, with our main approaches being to ensure they use the phone where suitable, allow them to break the call into smaller pieces if they have difficulty concentrating for long periods, or to offer a one-to-one interview to support them if the telephone is not suitable. The most vulnerable can also opt to use a third party or intermediary to help them.

Universal Credit: Fraud

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the effect on levels of fraud and error of using self-reporting as an alternative to real-time PAYE data for universal credit. [78317]

Chris Grayling: The use of real time PAYE data is a key element of universal credit.

The Government are fully committed to introducing real time PAYE data and are on track to deliver it in time for the introduction of universal credit in October 2013.

For those not covered by this facility, for example the self-employed, a system based on the self-reporting of earnings will be developed. We are in the process of considering the controls and safeguards against fraud and error which might be required.

Universal Credit: Major Projects Authority

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reports the Major Projects Authority has completed on the implementation of universal credit; and on what dates these reports were presented to him. [78316]

Chris Grayling: The Major Project Authority is working with the DWP chief operating officer (the senior responsible owner for universal credit) rather than directly with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith).

In January of this year the Major Project Authority undertook a Starting Gate review on the universal credit programme. The senior responsible owner met with the Major Project Review Group Panel (co-ordinated by MPA) in July and October of this year and will meet with the panel again in December. Subsequent to each meeting the panel have written to the senior responsible owner.

Ahead of the next panel the Major Project Authority has arranged for a programme assessment review of the universal credit programme to take place.

Universal Credit: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Ministers from the Northern Ireland Executive on the effect of welfare reform and the introduction of the universal credit in Northern Ireland; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of childcare provision in Northern Ireland on the effectiveness of universal credit. [77538]

Chris Grayling: Ministers are working closely with Northern Ireland colleagues in the Department for Social Development (DSD) and in the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency (NISSA) to support the delivery of welfare reform and universal credit. This includes meetings to discuss a range of related subjects.

Child care and social security are a devolved matter in Northern Ireland and we will continue to work closely with the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland to seek to maintain a single system across the United Kingdom.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to provide financial support to cancer patients for fuel costs in the winter of 2011-12; [77812]

(2) whether he has any plans to extend the winter fuel payment to those *(a)* with a terminal illness and *(b)* undergoing treatment for cancer. [77813]

Steve Webb: There are no plans to extend provision under the winter fuel payment scheme.

People with a terminal illness and those undergoing treatment for cancer will, in most cases, be entitled to disability living allowance (DLA). DLA is a non-contributory, non-income-related and tax-free cash contribution towards the disability-related costs of those with a disability.

Additional help is also available to people with a terminal illness or those undergoing treatment for cancer where they are in receipt of an income-related benefit through the disability premiums associated with these benefits.

Cold weather payments are also available to certain vulnerable people to help with the extra heating costs that result from very cold weather in their area.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the proposal on coronial reform submitted to his Department jointly by INQUEST and the Royal British Legion, entitled A Pragmatic Way Forward. [78224]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my comments during Report stage of the Public Bodies Bill on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 261, in which I responded to the question on the proposal.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1014W, on departmental procurement, how many contracts involved the provision of consultancy services; how many contracts involved the employment of a consultant within his Department; whether any such consultants remained in employment on the latest date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [77718]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77495]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows.

(1) The answer given on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1014W, did not include data in relation to consultancy contracts. The Ministry of Justice has awarded the following consultancy contracts directly to small, medium and large businesses since May 2010:

	Number of contracts awarded since May 2010	*Number of contracts currently in place as of 31 October 2011*
Small	14	4
Medium	2	1
Large	17	7

None of the above contracts involve the employment of a consultant. They are procurement contracts let directly with businesses for the purposes of delivering consultancy services.

(2) There are no full-time equivalent staff employed on consultancy contracts.

Public Bodies Reform

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider publishing a paper summarising the responses to his Department's consultation on reforming the public bodies of his Department prior to 31 December 2011. [78225]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 390W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77602]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is actively exploring opportunities to encourage public service mutuals across its services. This has not yet led to any formal applications from employees to run services but we are following up initial areas of interest. All options will be developed within the wider context of work on service reform and competition.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77930]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77931]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77932]

(4) what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department; [77933]

(5) how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77934]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) requires its special advisers, Director of Communications, Band A (previously Grades 6 and 7) press officers and ministerial private secretaries to hold minimum "security check" clearance. Details of individual clearances cannot be disclosed for security reasons but are proportionate to the requirements of each post.

The following individuals have held the listed posts since May 2010:

Head of Communications—Clare Harbord and Pam Teare

Deputy Head of Communications—There has been/is no such post

Head of Press Office—Rob Smith and Scot Marchbank

Special advisers— Kathryn Laing and David Hass.

The MoJ has not appointed any policy advisers since May 2010.

Defence Business Services carries out the vetting checks for the MoJ.

The following table gives the number of visitor passes issued for the MoJ headquarters buildings in each month since May 2010.

	Number of passes issued
2010	
May	6,970
June	7300
July	7,348
August	5,712
September	8,098
October	7,765
November	7,330
December	4,472
2011	
January	6,880
February	7,464
March	8,711
April	5,344
May	5,476
June	6,227
July	7,352
August	5,222
September	6,969

The details for passes issued in October 2011 are not yet available.

In addition, the following table gives details of the number of "frequent visitor" passes for MoJ buildings in use in each month since May 2010.

	Number of passes in use
2010	
May	61
June	61
July	61
August	61
September	61
October	61
November	61
December	61
2011	
January	62
February	62
March	62
April	62
May	62
June	60
July	60
August	59
September	58

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claimants appearing before an Employment Tribunal had legal representation in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [78318]

Mr Djanogly: The number of claimants represented in employment tribunals for the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table:

Representation of claimants at employments tribunals[1]

Represented by:	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Trade union	8,800	12,500	10,000
Lawyers[2]	85,900	161,900	142,700
No information provided[3]	41,300	44,900	40,400
Other representation	15,100	16,700	25,000
Total	151,100	236,100	218,100

[1] This is a snapshot of the information provided by claimants in each financial year, and is comparable to employment tribunal claims accepted, not the number of employment jurisdictions in which a claim was made.

[2] Included: representation by solicitors, law centres and trade association.

[3] For those individuals representing themselves, there is no need to provide information on representation. Therefore all cases where the representative information was left blank are included here.

This information is published annually as official statistics in the Employment Tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal Statistics Report.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals aged 18 years or younger *(a)* were prosecuted and *(b)* received custodial sentences for carrying a bladed or pointed article in a public place in North Wales in each year since 2006. [77778]

Mr Blunt: Persons aged 18 and under proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for carrying a blade or pointed article in a public place in North Wales Police Force Area, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Persons aged 18 and under proceeded against at magistrates courts and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for carrying a blade or pointed article in a public place, North Wales police force area, 2006-10[1,2,3]

Statute	*Offence*		*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*[4]
Criminal Justice Act 1988, S.139	Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	2006	21	18	18	3	15
		2007	17	16	15	2	13
		2008	20	17	17	6	11
		2009	18	18	17	5	12
		2010	14	12	12	1	11

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The figures presented here have been taken from the Ministry of Justices court proceedings database and are a record of the sentences passed in courts, they will differ from the figures published in the 'Knife Crime Sentencing—Quarterly brief' which are drawn from the Police National Computer.

[4] Other sentences include: absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentences, suspended sentence, otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Personal Injury: Compensation

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of how much income *(a)* companies, *(b)* public bodies and *(c)* trade unions receive in referral fees arising from insurance claims for motor accidents. [76938]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are banning the payment and receipt of referral fees in personal injury cases, and are taking forward the relevant provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. An impact assessment was published in October and is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have committed *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* other violent offences after being released from prison early and where those offenders were committed within the period of that offenders' original custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [74743]

Mr Blunt: Legislation requires that most prisoners serving a normal determinate custodial sentence must be released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence. Release at this point is not early as there is no discretion to hold prisoners beyond it; section 244 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 confers a duty on the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice to release fixed term prisoners as soon as they have served one-half of the sentence. For those serving 12 months or more, the second half of the sentence is served in the community under licensed supervision and offenders are liable to be recalled to continue serving the sentence in prison if they fail to comply with their licence conditions.

Two schemes have operated during the past five years that have allowed prisoners to be released earlier than statutorily required at the half-way point of sentence. The Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme has operated under legislation since 1999. Prisoners who meet the eligibility criteria and are risk assessed as suitable may be released on HDC up to 135 days before the half-way point of sentence. Table 1 shows the number of proven violent and sexual offences committed by offenders while on HDC for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09, the latest period for which figures are available.

In the method used to derive these figures an offender is considered to have reoffended if, during their period on HDC, he or she committed an offence that was recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) as resulting in a caution or conviction; for the offence to count, the caution or conviction has to be given within nine months of the end of the quarter in which the offender started on HDC. For this reason, some offences committed during an HDC period which resulted in a conviction beyond this nine month period do not appear in the table.

Further details of reoffending while on HDC can be found in Chapter 2.2 of the Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis, published in November 2010:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/compendium-of-reoffending-statistics-and-analysis.pdf

To put these figures in context, in the last five years for which data are available 87% of prisoners have completed their period of HDC successfully and only 5% reoffended while on HDC.

The End of Custody Licence (ECL) was an administrative scheme, introduced as a temporary measure on 29 June 2007. It was withdrawn in March 2010 and the last ECL release was on 9 April 2010. Under ECL, prisoners who met the eligibility criteria serving sentences between four weeks and four years were released under temporary licence for the final 18 days of the custodial element of the sentence. There are no plans to reintroduce ECL.

Details of proven offending on ECL are unavailable but figures on alleged reoffending on ECL are found in table 2.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Table 1: Proven reoffences committed while on home detention curfew by offence category in England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09

					Number of offences
Offence Category	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Violence against the person	47	50	40	60	43
Sexual offences	2	0	0	1	0
Other types of offence	1,484	1,126	782	759	847
All offence	1,533	1,176	822	820	890

Table 2: Alleged reoffending by offenders on ECL

	Number of alleged offences (by offenders during their period of ECL), as notified to NOMS by 26 April and cumulative totals				
	1 March to 26 April 2010	*1 January to 26 April 2010*	*1 January to 31 December 2009*	*1 January-to 31 December 2008*	*29 June-to 31 December 2007*
Number of offenders	17	68	454	497	215
Alleged further offences	22	81	584	658	301

Notes:

1. The total of reasons for recall is not the same as the total number of decisions to recall because offenders can be recalled for more than one reason.

2. Alleged re-offending may lead to recall of the offender even though, at the point of the recall, the offender may not have formally been charged.

3 The offender's behaviour indicates an increased risk of reoffending or harm.

4 The number of offenders notified to NOMS as having allegedly reoffended during their period on ECL.

Data Sources and Quality:

All of the figures above are as notified to NOMS and may therefore be subject to inaccuracies. There may be recalls, reoffending, further offences, offenders returned to custody, and offenders released not in accordance with the scheme, some of which may not have been notified to us.

War Memorials

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to provide support for the protection and preservation of war memorials. [77129]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

This Department's Memorial Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to VAT incurred by charities and faith groups in erecting, maintaining or repairing public memorials, including war memorials. Since the start of the scheme in 2005-06, over £1.8 million has been given out to support memorials across the UK.

English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, in association with the War Memorials Trust, provide grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England. These grants help with the upkeep and repair of war memorials. To date, over £757,000 has been offered under the scheme.

English Heritage has also produced the guidance leaflet, "Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials", in association with the War Memorials Trust. The guidance is aimed at owners and custodians and gives advice on how to make an assessment of condition. The leaflet is downloadable from the Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) website.

Over the last 17 years the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded more than £17.5 million to over 40 projects across the UK that have specifically included the conservation and interpretation of war memorials. These range from small scale repair projects to village war memorials, to larger scale memorial park restoration projects.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty in an official capacity. [77276]

Mr Lidington: No.

Armed Conflict: Children

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider amending the interpretative declaration on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict to prohibit the participation in hostilities of soldiers aged under 18 in any circumstances. [78260]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are currently no plans to amend our interpretative declaration on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

The interpretative declaration is a statement to clarify the Government's understanding of its obligations. We believe that our policies on under-18s are robust and compliant with national and international law. Naturally we will continue to keep them under review.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78133]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The following numbers of civil servants in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office received non-consolidated performance pay:

	Number
2006-07	6,076
2007-08	4,871
2008-09	4,712
2009-10	4,094
2010-11	4,125

Non-consolidated performance pay is focussed on rewarding high levels of performance. It is an integral element of the reward package for staff, has to be re-earned each year and does not add to future pay bill costs.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* Ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77901]

Mr Lidington: It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of national security vetting. The booklet "HMG Personnel Security Controls", describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks, and is publicly available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77902]

Mr Lidington: The booklet, "HMG Personnel Security Controls", describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks and is publicly available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

The names of Special Advisers across all Government Departments are published in a Cabinet Office Quarterly Return available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77903]

Mr Lidington: All security vetting services for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are carried out through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services (FCOS) Vetting Unit.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77904]

Mr Lidington: There are currently 2,388 active temporary security passes issued to non-contractors and others not working permanently in the UK offices of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The monthly breakdown of temporary passes issued since May 2010 is:

	Number
2010	
May	117
June	88
July	111
August	96
September	72
October	89
November	103
December	49
2011	
January	159
February	218
March	239
April	236
May	4
June	12
July	282
August	315
September	211
October	161

India: EU External Trade

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the free trade agreement being negotiated between the EU and the Indian government containing protections for Indian nationals working in EU member states. [77787]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The EU-India Free Trade Agreement is still under negotiation.

We expect commitments on the entry and stay of Indian nationals supplying services under the agreement to be covered in the Mode 4 element of the agreement. We expect these commitments to contain provisions based on those in the EU services offer in the Doha Round which clarify that all other requirements of EU and member state laws and regulations regarding entry, stay, work and social security measures shall continue to apply. We also expect the agreement to contain a chapter on sustainable development which will address labour standards.

IRG

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has awarded any contracts to IRG Ltd. [77161]

Mr Lidington: No.

Macedonia: Politics and Government

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Macedonia on the issue of Albanian separatism. [77805]

Mr Lidington: I have had no recent discussions with the Government of Macedonia in relation to the theme of Albanian separatism. More generally, the UK Government believes that harmonious inter-ethnic relations are essential in delivering security and stability in Macedonia. In that context, I was pleased to send a statement in support of the 10th anniversary of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in Macedonia in August this year.

Members: Correspondence

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2011 from the hon. Member for Cardiff West concerning the oral answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 631, on Libya. [78226]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The letter from the hon. Member was transferred to the Welsh Government. A response was issued on 25 October.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77710]

The Prime Minister: I do not receive external funding for my ministerial office or my official advisers. As a party leader, party staff provide me with political advice.

Financial Services: Taxation

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish his response to any correspondence received from residents of Birkenhead constituency on implementation of a financial transaction tax following the G20 meeting in November. [78023]

The Prime Minister: My office has received a large amount of correspondence in relation to the G20. It would not be for my office to release copies of correspondence sent direct to my office by members of the public or the replies to them. When constituents write to their Member of Parliament and those letters are then forwarded to my office, a response is sent to the relevant Member.

Lord Young of Graffham

John Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what occasions Lord Young of Graffham has visited 10 Downing street in the last 12 months; [78348]

(2) what facilities in 10 Downing street Lord Young of Graffham has used in the last 12 months. [78349]

The Prime Minister: Lord Young has recently been appointed as my adviser on enterprise and will therefore visit Downing street accordingly. He had previously been an adviser until November 2010. I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on 25 October 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/adviser-appointed

TREASURY

Business: Loans

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the change in the level of credit available to businesses in 2011. [77782]

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Project Merlin agreement. [77788]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 310-13, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to SMEs. This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

At the half-year point, the banks were broadly on track to meet their overall commitment, having loaned over £100 billion against an implied target of £95 billion. However, the banks were narrowly behind where they should be on lending to SMEs, having loaned over £37 billion against an implied target of £38 billion. The Government will use all of the tools available to them to ensure that the banks live up to their promises.

Child Tax Credit

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough are in receipt of the child tax credit family element. [78331]

Mr Gauke: The requested information can be found in the latest HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: Geographical analyses—April 2011', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr11.pdf

Data for England, west midlands and Dudley are provided in the following table:

Number of families benefiting from child tax credit family element April 2011

	Thousand Number
England	4,820
West midlands	558
Dudley	31

Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage other countries to become signatories to the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters; what steps he is taking to encourage an EU-wide agreement for EU extraction companies to publish country-by-country accounts; what steps he is taking with his OECD counterparts to create plans for country-by-country accounts to be extended to all industries; and if he will make a statement. [77726]

Mr Gauke: The Government are promoting the convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters in the G20 and other international forums. We encourage all countries to consider joining the convention, which is an important instrument for combating tax evasion and avoidance.

As I stated in my answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 576W, the Government are engaging with the European Commission and other member states in order to emphasise our support for requirements being placed on EU extractives companies to disclose payments made to governments, matching the standards being set in the US. Work on country-by-country reporting by the OECD task force on tax and development remains ongoing.

Debts: Business

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number and *(b)* the value of corporate bonds to be issued in the UK in the next 12 months. [77729]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury does not forecast or hold any information on corporate bonds to be issued in the UK in the future.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77910]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77911]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77912]

Miss Chloe Smith: Information relating to the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks is set out in the Cabinet Office document 'HMG Personnel Security Controls' which can be accessed online at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department were the subject of vetting. This could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Details of departmental special advisers are published quarterly by the Cabinet Office and can be accessed via:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77914]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury's departmental headquarters, 1 Horse Guards road (1HGR), is part of the Government Offices Great George street (GOGGS) complex. The building is a shared facility. The Cabinet Office occupies space in 1HGR, and the building is physically joined to 100 Parliament street, the headquarters of HM Revenue and Customs. All occupants of the GOGGS complex are issued with the same building photo pass. HM Treasury does not have its own departmental pass.

The numbers of active security passes currently allowing access to GOGGS are:

	Number of live GOGGS photo passes (not including HM Treasury staff or contractors)
HMT sponsored	92
HMRC sponsored	3,568
Cabinet Office sponsored	688

A month by month breakdown of figures is not available.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding his Department allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77990]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury currently funds one helpline—the Equitable Life Payment Scheme helpline. This went live in June 2011, and as of 31 October had received 5,265 calls. The purpose of the line is to answer policyholder questions about the Equitable Life Payment Scheme. The running costs of the helpline are included in the broader operational delivery contract of the scheme, and are subject to commercial confidentiality.

Economic Growth

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the contribution by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 366-82, what evidence he considered in concluding that adoption of the five-point plan would *(a)* increase the deficit by £27 billion and *(b)* raise interest rates by one per cent. [76287]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* On 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 370, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), said:

> "The House is today asked to support an Opposition motion that would add another £20 billion to the structural deficit."

The Chancellor considered a range of evidence on the cost of Opposition policies, based on published information and HMRC analysis. This included:

> HMRC estimates that temporarily reducing the rate of VAT for 12 months (from now) would increase the deficit by around £12.4 billion. This is in line with the £12.1 billion estimate of the revenue received in 2011-12 from the rise in the main rate of VAT, as set out in Table 2.1 of Budget 2010.
>
> Temporarily reducing the rate of VAT on home improvements is estimated to increase the deficit by £2.2 billion, as set out in the answer given on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W.
>
> HMRC estimates that temporarily reducing employer national insurance contributions for small firms taking on extra workers could increase the deficit by around £1 billion. This figure is based on broad assumptions, including the definition of a 'small firm' as one with 10 or fewer employees, and is therefore subject to particular uncertainty.
>
> The cost of bringing forward capital spending would depend on the specific proposal. The estimate given in the debate reflected an illustrative assumption that the policy would imply no real terms cuts in capital departmental expenditure limits in 2011-12. If this were the case, the increase in the deficit would be £5.5 billion, as set out in Table 2.3 of Budget 2011.

In the same debate, the Chancellor said:

> "I can give the House new information on what just a 1% rise in interest rates would mean for this country at the moment."

Estimates of the effect of higher interest rates on debt interest costs are published by the OBR in the supplementary tables accompanying their Budget forecast. Table 2.18 shows that a 1% rise in gilt yields across the forecast period would raise debt interest costs by £6 billion per year by 2015-16.

A 1% rise in mortgage interest rates is estimated to raise annual mortgage payments by UK households by around £10 billion. This is based on figures for the stock of outstanding mortgage debt published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

A 1% rise in the rate of return on portfolio UK debt held by foreign residents is estimated to increase net annual interest payments to foreign creditors by around £15 billion, based on Office for National Statistics data.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* Home Office on the effects of the fuel duty derogation for amateur biofuel producers who manufacture less than 2,500 litres of biodiesel a year; [73608]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Transport regarding the future of the fuel duty differential for sustainable biodiesel. [73609]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 12 October 2011]:* Treasury officials routinely discuss a range of tax policy issues with their colleagues in other Departments.

A small producers' biofuel duty exemption was introduced in 2007 and continues to offer effective tax relief to low volume biofuel producers. The Government do ask that low volume producers (producing less than 2,500 litres a year) adhere to record keeping requirements, and accompanying regulations were introduced to help prevent manipulation of the threshold.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is aware of attempts by a small number of producers to use the 2,500 litre a year registration threshold to avoid paying excise duty on biofuels. Action has been taken to enforce the regulations and prevent any manipulation.

The 20p per litre duty differential for used cooking oil (UCO) derived biodiesel will end as intended on 31 March 2012. Under changes to the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO), additional support for biofuels from waste including used cooking oil is being provided by double counting the contribution they make towards national targets.

Hotel Expenses

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on hotel expenses incurred (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in 2010-11. [76028]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Staff only book overnight hotel accommodation when absolutely necessary, in line with HM Treasury policy on travel and subsistence. They may either book hotel accommodation through the HM Treasury's hotel provider, or book directly with hotels and claim back the cost at a later date.

The following table shows the cost of accommodation booked through HM Treasury's hotel provider in 2010-11.

		£000
	UK	Abroad
HM Treasury	34	63
Debt Management Office	2	6
Asset Protection Agency	1	3

The costs above may include meals purchased as part of a hotel booking. Total spending on all hotel expenses could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spending on accommodation has declined markedly from 2009-10 levels of £72,000 and £94,000 for the UK and abroad respectively.

Inflation

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in *(a)* the level of Government spending on benefits and pensions and *(b)* Government borrowing as a result of the increase in inflation announced on 18 October 2011; and if he will make a statement. [76100]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated October 2011:

As Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the change in (a) the level of Government spending on benefits and pensions and (b) Government borrowing as a result of the increase in inflation announced on 18 October 2011; and if he will make a statement. 76100

We will set out estimates of the impact of the September 2011 inflation rate on public sector spending and borrowing in our forthcoming 'Economic and fiscal outlook (EFO)' on November 29th. It is not possible to estimate the Impact in isolation from other changes to the forecast as the impact will depend on the overall level of spending on benefits and pensions that we forecast for 2012-13 and future years.

In the March 2011 EFO we set out the impact of the change in our forecast of inflation since November 2010 on the level of social security benefit and tax credit spending in Tables 4.18 and 4.19 on page 126. We also set out in Box 4.3 on page 144 an explanation of the variety of ways in which inflation can affect the public finances, through both changes to government expenditure and changes to receipts.

Job Creation: Private Sector

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to promote job creation in the private sector. [76987]

Miss Chloe Smith: At Budget 2011 the Government put in place a wide range of measures to support growth, including:

Supporting business growth by aiming to create the most competitive tax system in the G20, including cutting corporation tax in April from 28% to 26%, by 2014 it will reach 23% which represents the lowest rate in the G7; and

Helping to ensure that it always pays to work by increasing the personal allowance by £1,000 in 2011-12.

Tax Allowances: Film

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason animated films are not eligible for the tax incentives available to feature films. [78355]

Mr Gauke: Animated films are eligible for film tax relief in the same way as any other film.

Tax Havens

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce tax avoidance through the use of tax havens. [78143]

Mr Gauke: The use of tax havens is one aspect of tax avoidance. To address tax avoidance the Government have set out a strategic approach. This is supported by HMRC's anti-avoidance strategy which puts the emphasis on prevention of avoidance through robust legislation and deterrence, backed up by accurate detection and robust action where avoidance does occur.

Specific activities undertaken within HMRC's strategy to address avoidance through the use of tax havens include for example obtaining and sharing information on avoidance through membership of the Joint International Tax Shelter Information Centre (JITSIC).

In addition tax havens often involve attempts at concealment and HMRC has made significant progress in tackling this by obtaining information such as banking details and introducing offshore disclosure initiatives.

Taxation: Football

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the annual loss in *(a)* revenues from taxation and *(b)* National Insurance contributions arising from the use of image rights contracts between professional football clubs and players; and if he will make a statement; [77995]

(2) what progress HM Revenue and Customs has made in investigating the effect on revenues from taxation of the use of image rights contracts between professional football clubs and players; and if he will make a statement. [77996]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not hold the specific data referred to on image rights and cannot comment on the tax affairs of particular individuals or employers.

The normal rules relating to the taxation of employment income apply to payments from sports club employers to all professional sportsmen and sportswomen as employees of their club. Where employment income is paid, income tax and national insurance contributions should be deducted at source under PAYE.

Some prominent sports stars are able to market their image rights separately using limited companies. HMRC is aware of this practice. HMRC has measures in place to check where necessary that correct distinctions between employment and image rights income are properly observed and that any image rights income is properly taxed on the limited company and any other person who benefits from such an arrangement.

Working Tax Credit

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to remove the qualifying age barrier for working tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [77775]

Mr Gauke: In general, workers without children must be aged over 25 and work 30 hours a week, in order to qualify for the working tax credit. There are exceptions, for example, workers with disabilities qualify at 16 hours. There are no plans to change the age at which people can qualify for the working tax credit.

However, the new universal credit, introduced over two Parliaments, will replace the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits with a simple streamlined payment. The universal credit will extend in-work support to groups such as under 25s who cannot get working tax credit currently, which will help to address the concerns the hon. Lady has outlined. The first new claims to universal credit are expected to begin from 2013 and full migration is due in 2017.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75113]

Mr Maude: Details of the contracts the Cabinet Office has advertised on Contracts Finder each month since May 2010 are in the following table:

Month advertised	*Details of contract*	*Supplier*	*Is supplier an SME or third sector organisation?*	*Value (£)*
March 2011	Off the shelf software solution for the automated storage, analysis and reporting of strategic Government contracts	MarkLogic Corporation	SME	24,000
April 2011	Whitehall social mobility internship programme	Social Mobility Foundation	SME and TSO	37,913
April 2011	Provision of accelerated solution environment workshops on a pro bono basis	CapGemini	No	Pro bono
		Atos Origin	No	Pro bono
		IBM	No	Pro bono
		Sapient Nitro	No	Pro bono
April 2011	Business Travel Services	Contract not yet awarded	—	—
April 2011	Office supplies	Banner Business Services Ltd	No	200,000,000
		XMA Limited	No	200,000,000
May 2011	Medals and insignia framework	Spink	No	[1]1,200,000
		Worcestershire Medals Services	No	[1]—
		AB Sporrong	No	[1]—
		Thomas Fattorni	No	[1]—
		The Royal Mint	No	[1]—
		Toye Kenning and Spencer	No	[1]—
June 2011	Framework agreement for daily and non-daily metered gas supplies and additional services, goods and works	Contract not yet awarded	—	—
July 2011	Verbatim transcription services for the Boundary Commission for England	Merrill Legal Services	No	93,258

Month advertised	*Details of contract*	*Supplier*	*Is supplier an SME or third sector organisation?*	*Value (£)*
July 2011	E-enablement—two externally hosted technical solutions which support the authority in the management of central procurement	Contract not yet awarded	—	—
August 2011	Public Services Network (PSN) connectivity framework	Contract not yet awarded	—	—
September 2011	Public Services Network (PSN) telecommunications services	Contract not yet awarded	—	—

[1] Indicates brace—total estimated value of contract

The contracts for office supplies are call-off contracts for the whole of Government, and therefore the value provided is an estimate.

The medals and insignia framework has six separate suppliers covering 49 separate lots. The value provided is an estimate for the overall contract.

As well as contracts advertised on Contracts Finder, the Cabinet Office has published details of a further 19 contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. These include contracts competed through pre-existing frameworks and therefore the requirement was not originally advertised on Contracts Finder. In total, 21 out of 48 contracts published on Contracts Finder have been awarded to SMEs, which represents 43.75% of total contracts awarded where the details have been published on Contracts Finder.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77855]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77856]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77857]

Mr Maude: The level of NSV clearance required by a post is not determined by its title or grade but is dependant upon the level and volume of classified information which the post holder handles and the circumstances in which it is seen and accessed.

A security clearance is time limited and there may be occasions when a post holder possesses a clearance level higher than that needed at that time. The security clearance level required by a post is reviewed regularly by senior management including the departmental security officer.

Further information on the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of National Security Vetting checks is given in a publication produced by the Cabinet Office entitled 'HMG Personnel Security Controls; advice and guidance for individuals who are subject to HMG recruitment and national security vetting controls, or related enquiries'. This is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight those who have access to sensitive material and could be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77859]

Mr Maude: A total of 724 security passes have been issued for access to the main Cabinet Office London estate to others not including staff or contractors since May 2010. Details are shown in the following table:

	Number
2010	
May	59
June	32
July	38
Aug	35
Sept	36
Oct	35
Nov	32
Dec	34
Total	301
2011	
Jan	45
Feb	35
Mar	39
Apr	52
May	42
June	51
July	46
Aug	30
Sept	53
Oct	30
Total	423

These figures exclude one day visitor passes.

In addition the Cabinet Office has entered into reciprocal arrangements with some other Departments whereby staff can have unescorted access to each other Departments' headquarters without the need for an additional pass.

Departmental: Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what level of security vetting is undertaken in respect of civil service or political staff who attend meetings of *(a)* the Cabinet and *(b)* Cabinet sub-committees. [77789]

Mr Maude: Attendees at meetings of the Cabinet or of its sub-committees must hold the appropriate level of National Security Vetting clearance relevant for the subject matter(s) of those meetings.

Further information on the security vetting procedures and vetting levels different posts may require is provided in a publication produced by the Cabinet Office entitled 'HMG Personnel Security Controls; advice and guidance for individuals who are subject to HMG recruitment and national security vetting controls, or related enquiries'. Copies are in the Library of the House and available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

Scandinavia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many official visits have been made by Prime Ministers to *(a)* Norway, *(b)* Sweden and *(c)* Denmark since 1981. [75348]

Mr Maude: Information on the Prime Minister's overseas travel costing over £500 from 1997 to 2010 is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/node/871

Since May 2010, information on all ministerial overseas travel has been published on a quarterly basis and information for the Prime Minister is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Prime Ministers visited each of these countries once in the period between 1981 and May 1997.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to review the *(a)* use in the NHS and *(b)* value for money of (i) bevacizumab (Avastin), (ii) cetuzimab (Erbitux), (iii) lapatinib (Tyverb) and (iv) trastuzumab (Herceptin). [77793]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published, or is developing, technology appraisal guidance on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of each of these drugs for a number of indications. NICE's guidance is available on its website at:

www.nice.org.uk

Information on the use of selected medicines appraised and recommended by NICE in the national health service is published annually by the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

The latest report includes information on the use of trastuzumab (Herceptin). The report "Use of NICE-appraised medicines in the NHS in England—2009, Experimental statistics" has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/007_Primary_Care/niceappmed0910/NICE_bulletin_2009.pdf

The next report is expected to be published in 2012.

In addition, the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care report, "Hospital Prescribing—England 2010", contains estimates of the costs of drugs positively appraised by NICE and used in hospitals including cetuximab (Erbitux) and trastuzumab. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/007_Primary_Care/Prescribing/Hospital%20Prescribing%202010/Hospital_prescribing_bulletin_England_2010.pdf

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications were made to each strategic health authority for *(a)* bevacizumab (Avastin), *(b)* cetuximab (Erbitux), *(c)* lapatinib (Tyverb) and *(d)* trastuzumab (Herceptin) in the last two years; how many of these applications were (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and what reasons were given for these decisions. [77980]

Paul Burstow: We do not hold information on individual applications for cancer drugs funding made to strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the number of patients[1] in each SHA who have received cancer drugs under the interim cancer drugs funding arrangements in 2010-11 (from October 2010 to February 2011[2]) and under the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12 (to September 2011) is shown in the table.

	Bevacizumab		*Cetuximab*		*Lapatinib*		*Trastuzumab*	
Strategic health authority	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*
North East	127	263	4	6	15	29	0	0
North West	45	90	28	39	12	30	0	0
Yorkshire and Humber	18	97	15	57	24	50	0	1
East Midlands	50	159	1	18	23	60	1	0

	Bevacizumab		*Cetuximab*		*Lapatinib*		*Trastuzumab*	
Strategic health authority	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*
West Midlands	97	305	31	47	26	38	0	1
East of England	65	137	32	45	19	25	2	0
London	85	100	54	110	33	20	0	0
South East Coast	63	168	31	103	27	32	0	0
South Central	5	68	12	70	9	33	0	2
South West	28	119	5	39	7	36	0	2

[1] Some individual patients may be double counted where a patient has received more than one drug treatment.

[2] A breakdown of patient numbers by SHA by drug for March 2011 is not available.

Source:

Information supplied to the Department of Health by SHAs.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to national commissioning of treatment for patients diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [78252]

Paul Burstow: No decisions have been taken on which specific services will be directly commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board. The Health and Social Care Bill proposes that the NHS Commissioning Board should take responsibility for commissioning specialised services for people with rare conditions from April 2013. Clinical Commissioning Groups will commission most other services on behalf of patients.

Epidemiological data suggests a population prevalence of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) of at least 0.2 to 0.4%. This means that services for people with CFS/ME are not rare enough to fall within existing specialised commissioning arrangements for rare conditions.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77905]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77906]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77907]

(4) what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter-terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77908]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on vetting can be found in the booklet "HMG Personnel Security Controls" available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The following individuals have held posts in the Communications Directorate since May 2010:

Head of Communications: Sian Jarvis until September 2011. Post currently vacant; and

Head of News (press office) and a deputy head of communications: James Sorene (until January 2011); Elisabeth Vanderstock (acting) (to June 2011) and Tim Jones (to date).

All security vetting for the Department is carried out by Defence Business Services National Security Vetting.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77909]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's security policy requires the issue of security passes for anyone who accesses our main headquarters buildings. Swipe card security passes are issued for a prescribed period only after a security application form is completed and is endorsed by an authorised departmental official. Day visitor passes are issued for all visitors to the Department's headquarters premises, these are only valid on the day of issue, and visitors must be signed in by an authorised departmental official. Paper records for passes are only held for six months.

The Department has recently completed an exercise of reissuing swipe card security passes for its main headquarters buildings in London from June 2011 to September 2011. Information held centrally from this exercise on the number of security passes issued to persons who were not staff or contractors is as follows:

June 2011 to September 2011—nine security swipe card passes issued.

Information of the number of day security passes to visitors to our buildings is only held for six months and the monthly breakdown of issue of these since April 2011 is as follows:

	Number
April 2011	5,410
May 2011	6,843
June 2011	6,166
July 2011	5,671
August 2011	5,781
September 2011	8,836

Hepatitis: Health Services

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve access to treatment for patients with hepatitis C infection. [78215]

Anne Milton: We expect local national health service organisations to take appropriate steps to ensure satisfactory access to treatment for patients infected with hepatitis C. In future, subject to Parliament, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for ensuring that services, including for the treatment of hepatitis C, are commissioned so as to ensure consistency of high quality provision across the country and to address inequalities in access.

IVF

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct all primary care trusts to provide IVF treatment for women if they require it. [78594]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts should be aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers. The National Health Service Deputy Chief Executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39. A copy of the letter has already been placed in the Library.

Additionally, we support Infertility Network UK—a leading patient support organisation—to develop and promote standardised access criteria and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to protect whistle-blowers in the NHS from reprisal; and if he will make a statement. [78357]

Anne Milton: The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 provides protection in law for whistleblowers where they suffer detriment on the part of the employer or where the employer fails to take adequate steps after a concern is raised and the NHS constitution already includes a staff right to healthy and safe working conditions and an environment free from harassment, bullying or violence.

On 18 October 2011, the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), announced steps to highlight within the constitution:

> an expectation that staff should raise concerns at the earliest opportunity;
>
> a pledge that National Health Service organisations should support staff when raising concerns; and
>
> clarity around the existing legal right for staff to raise concerns about safety, malpractice or other wrongdoing without suffering any detriment.

The changes, which follow a public consultation earlier this year, form part of a series of measures surrounding whistleblowing.

Nutrition

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 837-38W, on nutrition, whether the evidence underpinning the responsibility deal will be peer-reviewed scientific literature. [77958]

Anne Milton: In developing pledges for the responsibility deal the networks consider the available evidence.

For example, the pledges launched in March 2011 on the removal of trans fats and on salt reduction draw on the evidence which shows a link between high intakes of trans fats and an increased risk of coronary heart disease. Furthermore, the evidence shows a link between high levels of salt intake and increased risk of high blood pressure, which, in turn, significantly increases the chances of having heart disease or a stroke.

The deal also includes a number of pledges where the evidence is more limited. However, we do not believe that a limited evidence base is a reason not to proceed with pledges that have the potential to benefit public health.

The Department's Research and Development Directorate is commissioning an independent evaluation of the impact of some elements of the responsibility deal. A team of researchers, commissioned by the Department, are currently assessing evaluation options and in due course will recommend approaches likely to deliver robust findings.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on each category of services for adults with learning disabilities in each year since 2000-01; and how much and what proportion of the *(a)* adult social care and *(b)* NHS budget has been spent on people with a learning disability in each year since 2000. [78353]

Paul Burstow: Data on national health service expenditure on "learning difficulties" are not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the total spend on the purchase of "learning difficulties" care by commissioners. The source of the figures are the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts for each year since 2000-01.

	NHS Revenue Expenditure: England[1] *(£000)*	*Total spend on the purchase of "learning difficulties" care by commissioners (£000)*	*Percentage of total NHS expenditure spent on people with "learning difficulties"*
2010-11	98,893,979	2,583,433	2.6
2009-10	95,599,430	2,497,197	2.6
2008-09	90,743,681	2,428,036	2.7
2007-08	86,381,965	2,363,451	2.7
2006-07	78,467,927	2,048,645	2.6
2005-06	74,167,512	1,999,137	2.7
2004-05	66,871,420	1,682,349	2.5
2003-04	61,864,664	1,593,718	2.6
2002-03	51,934,596	1,432,443	2.8
2001-02	47,289,280	1,487,492	3.2
2000-01	42,685,992	1,502,552	3.5

[1] Expenditure figures from 1999 to 2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 resource budgeting basis. Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2009-10 are on a Stage 2 resource budgeting basis. Expenditure figures from 2009-10 to 2010-11 are on an aligned basis. Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.

Notes:

1. These figures cannot be disaggregated further, e.g. by age group or by category of spend.
2. It should be noted that figures are for secondary health care only; we have no information relating to primary health care expenditure on learning difficulties.

A table has been placed in the Library that shows the net current social care expenditure on adults with a learning disability between 2000-01 and 2009-10.

Social Services: Training

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on social services: training, whether funding for the social work bursary will continue to be allocated to students only through grants and without provision for loans in 2012-13. [78393]

Paul Burstow: The social work bursary will continue to be granted to students in 2012-13 with no provision for loans. Section 67(4) of the Care Standards Act 2000 does not allow the social work bursary to provide loans.

In addition to receiving a social work bursary, undergraduate social work students are able to apply to the Students Loan Company for a loan.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on which aspects of the adoption system the Ministerial Adviser on Adoption *(a)* has commenced a thematic study to date and *(b)* expects to commence a thematic study. [77830]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* I have agreed with Martin Narey, the Ministerial Adviser on Adoption, that he will offer initial advice on the assessment of prospective adopters and on the matching of children with prospective adopters. Decisions on areas for full thematic studies have not yet been made. Initially he has been retained for an holistic look at adoption. The findings from the visits Mr Narey is currently undertaking to local authorities will inform these decisions.

Adoption: Children in Care

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of looked-after children were placed for adoption within 12 months of being identified for adoption by each local authority in England in each of the last five years. [77682]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The proportion of looked-after children who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the local authority's decision that the child should be placed for adoption, for each local authority in England for the period 2006 to 2010, is contained in the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)–year ending 31 March 2010. This was published on 30 September 2010. The information is given in table 12 under the Excel link "Tables containing Local Authority indicators, at Local Authority level" on the release's web page at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

A copy of this table has also been placed in the House Libraries.

This information will be updated for 2011 on 30 November 2011. It will take the form of an additional table (Table LAE2) to follow the recent Statistical Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011. It will be published at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Children In Care

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what reforms to the care system he is considering as a result of suggestions made to his Department's Tell Tim website. [77831]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* Many children in care, adopters and foster carers have made valuable suggestions via the Tell Tim website, about how to improve the support provided to looked after children and their carers. These have informed policy development and will continue to do so. The responses as a whole have highlighted the wide variation in the way that local authorities provide services. On 31 October the Department published Children in Care and Adoption Performance tables which show, against 15 key indicators, how each local authority is performing. These data are intended to drive local debate and discussion and to help weaker councils to learn from the best. On the same day the Prime Minister launched a national debate on children in care and adoption. Suggestions received via the Tell Tim website will be considered alongside others received over the next few months as part of this debate. We are continuing to promote the facility through Children in Care Councils, and I am attending several regional meetings to further inform our policy.

Children: Social Services

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's expenditure was on *(a)* looked-after children and *(b)* adoption services for each category of spending in England in 2010-11. [77679]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* Local authorities decide how much to spend on looked after children. The available information on how much was spent by local authorities on *(a)* looked after children and *(b)* adoption services for 2009-10 is shown in the following table. The information for 2010-11 is currently being collected and will be available in January 2012 when it will be published as Official Statistics.

Net current expenditure on looked after children and adoption services

	£000
Residential care	927,922,460
Fostering services	1,256,187,636
Other children looked after services	172.405,445
Secure accommodation (welfare)	18,188,868
Short breaks (respite) for looked after children	70,862,398
Children placed with family and friends	49,081,297
Advocacy services for children looked after	16,671,529
Education of looked after children	27,431,391
Leaving care support services	210,375,281
Asylum seeker services—children	32,803,487
Unaccompanied asylum children: assessment and care management	67,674,860
Unaccompanied asylum children: accommodation	48,591,528
Total children looked after	2,898,196,180
Adoption services	222,471,201
Special guardianship support	31,471,722
Other children's and families services	97,933,707
Total other children's and families services	351,876,630

Notes:

1. Spend by local authorities in each category.
2. The data are taken from the focal authorities section 251 Outturn statement for 2009-10.
3. The above data used are at 31 March 2011. This data will not match the information published on 6 January 2011 because it was amended by the local authorities.
4. Data are rounded to the nearest pound.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedures govern the transfer of special advisers to the civil service in his Department. [74544]

Tim Loughton: Appointments to the permanent civil service are made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles:

http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/Recruitment/Recruitment_Principles/index.html

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77411]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not purchased any individual assets over £250,000 since May 2010. However, the following expenditure has occurred for 'assets under construction' for which projects had previously been commissioned and completed since May 2010.

Assets under construction	*Brief purpose of asset*	*Expenditure (£000)*
eChannels	eChannels delivers the Department with a single external delivery capability across multi digital channels. For the end users it gives a single point of access to departmental content and applications that are relevant to the target audience.	1,000
Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMS)	EDRMS was rolled out across the Department in 2010, as part of a drive to improve how the Department manages and shares information internally while meeting Records Management commitments. The system provides staff with 'workplaces'—private online areas to store, share and edit documents and declare records. Workplaces ensure that only one version of a document is available at any one time (thus ensuring that narrative and analyses are always 'live') and provides an automatic version history with a reliable audit trail to track changes.	1,000
St Pauls Place, Sheffield—fit out costs	The expenditure related to the internal fit-out of a new building, (an empty shell when bought), prior to occupation by 800 staff. The work was completed by early June 2010.	2,500

In addition to the assets above, there may be some IT equipment which, if bulked up, may exceed the £250,000 limit; these have not been included because individually they are below the Department's capital threshold. To request details from all officials would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new senior staff have been appointed to his Department since May 2010; and what the qualifications and experience are of such staff. [76576]

Tim Loughton: The Department has appointed five employees into the senior civil service (SCS). These appointments into the SCS were made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles:

http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/Recruitment/Recruitment_Principles/index.html

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75701]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not record ministerial meetings by the specific categories of organisation as requested and to provide the detailed information would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Department publishes meetings between Ministers and external organisations on the departmental website at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a0065263/ministers-quarterly-returns

This information is currently available from May 2010 to March 2011 and is published on a quarterly basis. The information for April to June 2011 has been collated and will be published in due course.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date; [76456]

(2) how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* Ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78111]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has gained and relinquished functions in the course of a number of machinery of government changes since 1990. Functions relating to children and families were transferred to the Department in 2003. Records held indicate that in the years requested the following numbers of statutory instruments (Regulations and Orders) were issued by the Department for Education and its predecessor Departments. The figures include Orders in Council prepared by the Department but issued by the Privy Council Office (for example in relation to the appointment of statutory office holders, particularly HM Inspectors of schools and children's services):

	Number
1990	78
1995	84
1999	231
2000	166
2001	195
2002	172
2003	143
2004	128
2005	155
2006	132
2007	184
2008	127
2009	79
2010	110
2011 (to date)	46

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [76384]

Tim Loughton: Information for non-consolidated performance payments made in the Department and its predecessor, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, since 2007 is set out in the following table:

	Department and predecessor Departments	*Average number of staff on payroll and eligible for a bonus*	*Total number of staff receiving bonus*
2011/12	Department for Education	2,950	651
2010/11	Department for Education (from 12 May 2010)	2,740	1,381
2009/10	Department for Children, Schools and Families (until 11 May 2010)	3,030	1,434
2008/09	Department for Children, Schools and Families	2,821	1,405
2007/08	Department for Education and Skills	2,900	1,235

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [76590]

Tim Loughton: In 2010/11, 2,551 staff received a pay rise covering the last year of a 2008/10 pay deal. The Department then entered a two-year pay freeze in 2011/12. 170 staff on full-time equivalent earnings of under £21,000 a year received a pay rise of £250 in 2011/12.

The average increase for 2010/11 was £1,404 and £250 for 2011/12.

Recruitment

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many senior staff of his Department were appointed following the advertising of the post and subsequent shortlisting and interview since May 2010; and whether in respect of any senior appointments such processes were not followed. [76578]

Tim Loughton: The Department has made five senior staff appointments over the period for the following positions:

Director of Communications

Head of News

Senior Speechwriters (x 2)

Chief Executive of the Standards and Testing Agency

All subsequent shortlisting and interview processes for these posts followed the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles:

http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/Recruitment/Recruitment_Principles/index.html

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what definition of domestic violence his Department uses; and whether there are any qualifications of that definition in respect of particular services and processes for which his Department is responsible. [77009]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The definition of domestic violence used by the Department for Education is

"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, or young people, who are or have been intimate partners or family members or extended family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

"Working Together to Safeguard Children—A Guide to Inter-Agency Working to Safeguard Children and Promote the Welfare of Children" makes it clear that we consider that children can be victims of domestic violence (directly or indirectly).

The Government recognise the strong links between safeguarding concerns and domestic violence. All professionals working with or who come into contact with children, including those working in health or education, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. If they have reason to believe that a child is at risk from harm as a result of domestic violence, they should follow the same steps to raise this concern as they would for any other child at risk of abuse.

Foster Carers

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of local authorities in England have signed up to the Foster Carers' Charter. [77818]

Tim Loughton: Figures on the number and proportion of local authorities who have signed up to the Foster Carers' Charter has not yet been collected centrally as the charter was only launched in March 2011. However, the Government have been working closely with the sector to encourage sign up and we intend to undertake an audit next year.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [76395]

Tim Loughton: In June 2011, 51 lawyers (41.32 full-time equivalents) and five administrative staff were employed in the Department for Education's legal section.

In relation to the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department for Education, the Department holds the following information, which is correct as of the first quarter of 2011:

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service—seven lawyers and two legal secretaries

General Teaching Council for England—one lawyer and three paralegals

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation—one lawyer

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills—six lawyers and two paralegals

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency—three lawyers

Young People's Learning Agency—one lawyer

The non-departmental public bodies without legal sections were as follows:

School Support Staff Negotiating Body
School Teachers' Review Body
School Food Trust
Partnerships for Schools
Children's Workforce Development Council
National College for School Leadership
Office of the Children's Commissioner
Office of the Schools Adjudicator
Training and Development Agency for Schools
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency

The Department had no Executive agencies in June 2011.

Public Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74837]

Tim Loughton: We have looked closely at the option to mutualise the provision of IT services across the sector and believe that the idea has considerable merit. We are, however, in the middle of a significant change programme to reform the Department and its arm's-length bodies to improve effectiveness of delivery and reduce costs. We intend therefore to fully evaluate the mutualisation option once the new sector landscape is in place.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of looked-after children in England have a statement of special educational needs. [77820]

Tim Loughton: The number and proportion of looked after children in England who have a statement of special educational needs is contained in the Statistical First Release, Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010. The information is given in table 4.2 under the Excel link "(England summary tables)" on the release's web page at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information on the special educational needs status of looked after children will be updated in December 2011.

Young People: Unemployment

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 19 years old were not in education, employment or training in Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in each of the last five years. [77394]

Tim Loughton: The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these are based on sample data for employment and therefore cannot be disaggregated to parliamentary constituency level.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities. The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2006/07 and 2010/11, for the Tameside local authority, are shown in the following table. Note that due to methodological differences, estimates for young people NEET based on local authority data tend to be lower than the official estimates for NEET in the SFR.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

	Average number NEET in the three months November to January (% of 16 to 18 year cohort in brackets)				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Tameside	718 (9.1%)	636 (8.1%)	817 (8.1%)	601 (7.8%)	589 (7.6%)

Note:
Figures including 19 year olds are not available.
Source:
CCIS

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 19 were not in education, training or employment in Warrington North constituency in each of the last five years. [77653]

Tim Loughton: The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these are based on sample data for employment and therefore cannot be disaggregated to parliamentary constituency level.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities. The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2006/07 and 2010/11, for the Warrington local authority, are shown in the following tables. Note that due to methodological differences, estimates for young people NEET based on local authority data tend to be lower than the official estimates for NEET in the SFR.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

	Average number NEET in the three months November to January (% of 16 to 18 year cohort in brackets)				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Warrington	452 (7.0%)	372 (5.8%)	445 (7.2%)	356 (5.6%)	334 (5.3%)

Note:
Figures for 19 year olds are not available.
Source:
CCIS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Airports: Economic Situation

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effect of airports policy on economic growth. [78264]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), together with officials, have regular meetings as part of the process of policy development and delivery to discuss a wide range of issues.

Business: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding allocated under the Small Business Research Initiative has been spent to date; how many small and medium-sized companies have been awarded contracts under the scheme; and what marketing his Department has carried out of the scheme. [77664]

Mr Prisk: Since the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) was relaunched by the Technology Strategy Board in April 2009, 639 contracts to the value of £43.368 million have been placed with business. Of these contracts, 492 (77%) contracts with a total value of £35,258,184 (81 % of contracts placed) have been awarded to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). BIS does not hold data centrally on actual spending under the programme, as the contracts are issued and monitored by the Departments and agencies that have placed the contracts.

There is currently a cross-Government freeze on marketing; however SBRI is being promoted by the Technology Strategy Board and the public sector organisations using SBRI through a number of different channels, including the web, press notices, knowledge transfer networks, trade associations and other relevant networks, Contract Finder and events run by a range of stakeholders.

Business: Surveys

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to respond to the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey: Small Businesses. [78694]

Mr Davey: The Department is leading the cross-Government employment law review and is looking at all evidence about the operation of the underpinning legislative framework and burdens on business, including from the British Chambers of Commerce, other business representative groups, trade unions and other stakeholders. A key objective of the review is making it easier for a business to take on staff. The review will also consider ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge aimed at facilitating the recruitment of employees by businesses. The Government do not plan to respond to the British Chambers of Commerce work force survey.

Business: Training

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take to steps to facilitate business-to-business mentoring for the purposes of encouraging growth in small and medium-sized enterprises. [78265]

Mr Prisk: I am delighted to inform the hon. Member that we are already taking steps to facilitate business-to-business mentoring for the purposes of encouraging growth in small and medium-sized enterprises.

"Bigger Better Business" set out a vision for a new system of business information and support, including a commitment to develop a network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors. In July:

www.Mentorsme.co.uk

Britain's first online mentoring gateway, was launched by the British Bankers Association (BBA), providing a single point of access for those seeking mentoring and those seeking to be mentors, covering the whole of the UK. Mentorsme now provides access to almost 60 mentoring organisations and 11,000 mentors and this number continues to grow.

We are also working with the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI), mentoring organisations, trade and business representative bodies and private business to encouraging more experienced business people to sign up to mentor new and growing businesses.

I hope that I can rely on the hon. Member to help us in promoting the benefits of mentoring within his own constituency and encouraging more volunteer business mentors to come forward.

Debit Cards: Fees and Charges

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's response to the report by the Office of Fair Trading on card surcharges. [77544]

Mr Davey: I can confirm that I have discussed the Government's response to the Office of Fair Trading report on card surcharges with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr Hoban).

The Government are considering the Office of Fair Trading's findings and will respond to the report shortly.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements with a value of under £100,000. [73844]

Mr Davey: BIS policy is to use existing frameworks wherever possible. This policy applies to procurements both above and below £100,000. Procurements made under frameworks do not include a pre-qualification stage.

BIS, in consultation with the Cabinet Office, has significantly streamlined its tendering documentation relating to supplier suitability used in a major current "open" *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) procurement.

This streamlined documentation will serve as the basis for standard processes and documentation, not including use of a pre-qualification questionnaire, for procurements with a value of under £100,000.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77864]

Mr Davey: Apart from staff and contractor passes, the only other passes issued are for access to building facilities such as the restaurant. Monthly figures are not available for these, but there are currently a total of 18 issued.

Directors: Disqualification

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has assessed the effects on the economy of director disqualifications. [78319]

Mr Davey: In 2010/11 the Insolvency Service undertook a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the economic and other impact of its enforcement activities, including the disqualification of directors.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has had discussions with the Insolvency Service on the effects on the economy of director disqualifications. [78320]

Mr Davey: In August 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills commissioned the Insolvency Service to undertake an evaluation of its Investigation and Enforcement Services, which included the economic and other impact of director disqualifications. This was completed in June 2011.

Fireworks: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review adequacy of legislative provision governing the sale of fireworks in Scotland. [78823]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to do so.

Higher Education: Arts

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for admission to arts degree courses universities have received in each of the five years to 2011-12; what proportion of applications for university courses each figure represents; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of applications for arts degree courses in 2012-13. [78350]

Mr Willetts: The following table provides results for all subjects; figures for 'arts' courses can be taken from this but will depend on how 'arts' is defined. The data in the table are taken from the final end of year UCAS data for 2006 to 2010. Data for 2011-12 are not currently available. The table shows the number of choices by subject group and as is standard in UCAS reporting, the choices refer to those made through the UCAS main scheme only. We have not made an estimate for the likely number of applications for arts degree courses in 2012-13.

Choices by subject group

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
Subject line	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*
Group A Medicine and Dentistry	85,641	3.9	84,794	3.6	82,186	3.7	84,479	3.5	94,801	3.5
Group B Subjects allied to Medicine	189,151	8.5	192,114	8.2	215,647	9.8	247,812	10.4	328,150	12.1
Group C Biological Sciences	182,314	8.2	193,659	8.2	173,308	7.9	185,656	7.8	215,906	7.9
Group D Vet Sci, Ag and related	18,190	0.8	19,273	0.8	19,468	0.9	21,607	0.9	26,006	1.0
Group F Physical Sciences	81,300	3.7	86,585	3.7	77,074	3.5	81,235	3.4	91,697	3.4
Group G Mathematical and Comp Sci	120,645	5.4	123,532	5.2	111,756	5.1	122,817	5.1	136,716	5.0
Group H Engineering	110,015	5.0	117,326	5.0	108,144	4.9	123,027	5.2	134,601	4.9
Group J Technologies	10,255	0.5	11,769	0.5	10,515	0.5	11,536	0.5	12,356	0.5
Group K Architecture, Build and Plan	46,099	2.1	51,596	2.2	49,882	2.3	50,519	2.1	50,120	1.8
Group L Social Studies	183,960	8.3	197,977	8.4	186,107	8.5	205,063	8.6	237,283	8.7
Group M Law	109,382	4.9	115,439	4.9	104,914	4.8	111,085	4.7	117,526	4.3
Group N Business and Admin studies	259,326	11.7	284,960	12.1	265,805	12.1	285,634	12.0	310,221	11.4
Group P Mass Comms and Documentation	49,719	2.2	52,867	2.2	48,177	2.2	53,546	2.2	58,775	2.2
Group Q Linguistics, Classics and related	69,823	3.2	73,707	3.1	66,215	3.0	69,829	2.9	74,329	2.7
Group R European Langs, Lit and related	24,844	1.1	25,598	1.1	23,334	1.1	24,253	1.0	25,373	0.9
Group T Non-European Langs and related	9,125	0.4	9,255	0.4	7,473	0.3	7,758	0.3	8,321	0.3
Group V Hist and Philosophical studies	79,125	3.6	80,635	3.4	73,452	3.3	79,139	3.3	83,895	3.1
Group W Creative Arts and Design	210,505	9.5	232,265	9.9	215,372	9.8	236,077	9.9	287,769	10.6
Group X Education	71,627	3.2	78,142	3.3	72,082	3.3	77,135	3.2	89,828	3.3
Y Combined arts	68,316	3.1	71,944	3.1	62,153	2.8	67,076	2.8	72,658	2.7
Y Combined sciences	31,431	1.4	34,496	1.5	30,287	1.4	33,737	1.4	37,790	1.4
Y Combined social sciences	31,059	1.4	34,781	1.5	31,083	1.4	33,026	1.4	34,896	1.3
Y Sciences combined with social sciences or arts	94,360	4.3	99,400	4.2	89,148	4.1	97,512	4.1	109,031	4.0

Choices by subject group

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
Subject line	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*	*Choices*	*%*
Y Social sciences combined with arts	60,956	2.8	65,229	2.8	57,754	2.6	61,926	2.6	66,065	2.4
Z General, other combined and unknown	18,266	0.8	17,726	0.8	14,301	0.7	15,931	0.7	16,385	0.6
Grand total	2,215,434	100.0	2,355,069	100.0	2,195,637	100.0	2,387,415	100.0	2,720,498	100.0

London International College

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to investigate complaints that the London International College accepted fees from prospective students and did not return them when it was removed from the UK Border Agency sponsor list. [76924]

Mr Willetts: The London International College is a privately-funded education business and not a statutory, publicly-funded further education college. Such businesses are not required to register with this Department, nor are they inspected by the Government's school and college inspection body, Ofsted. We are not, therefore, able to intervene in the contractual arrangements between prospective students and the college.

As the college is run as a business, UK local trading standards officers or the consumer rights section of Directgov will be able to offer disappointed students information and advice on ways they could recover the monies owed to them.

It is unfortunate that some private colleges fail to meet the standards we expect of UK educational institutions. However, the UK Border Agency has introduced new requirements for private colleges that recruit international students which will ensure high standards of education and compliance with immigration procedures, including the requirement for all such colleges to be rated as Highly Trusted.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the membership of his Department's expert and adviser groups come from each of the *(a)* nations and *(b)* regions of the UK. [75802]

Mr Prisk: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons he decided not to run a third round of the Regional Growth Fund. [78404]

Mr Prisk: No decision has yet been made about a third round of the Regional Growth Fund.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the expected completion date for due diligence for successful bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund. [78406]

Mr Prisk: Due diligence on the majority of bids is expected to take three to six weeks on average. However, due diligence will not start until the beneficiary is ready with their project, and therefore, it is not possible to estimate a completion date for successful bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department plans to offer to businesses which were unsuccessful in the most recent round of the Regional Growth Fund. [78407]

Mr Prisk: At this time the Department has no plans to offer businesses which were unsuccessful in the most recent bidding round any further funding from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) as all RGF funding has now been allocated.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what work has been undertaken by the Economic Task Force with *(a)* Chambers of Commerce and *(b)* other business groups outside Derbyshire on (i) Bombardier Transportation's and (ii) the wider rail supply chain. [78155]

Mr Prisk: The Derby Economic Task Force has instigated a number of activities including work on the rail supply chain. This work is being led by the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and includes representation from local business, business representatives, unions and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI). Their first meeting was held on 31 October at which they discussed a number of proposals to support the wider rail supply chain.

Students: Finance

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 759W, on students: finance, on how many occasions he has exercised his discretion to allow a student who has interrupted studies due to illness to continue to receive support from the Student Loans Company despite the student's absence exceeding 60 days in the last five years. [78262]

Mr Willetts: Information on numbers of students interrupting their studies due to illness for a period exceeding 60 days and continuing to receive support from the Student Loans Company is not held by the Department or the Student Loans Company.

Summertime: Religious Practice

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on the religiously observant of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill. [78293]

Mr Davey: The Daylight Saving Bill, as the Government intend to seek to amend it, would have no immediate effect. In the first instance it simply requires a review of costs and benefits, to enable all the relevant interests, including those of people who are religiously observant, to be properly assessed and thereafter taken into account if a change is proposed. It is only right that there be a proper examination of the likely effects for people throughout the UK before such a significant change can occur.

Our initial view is that a change in time could have an adverse impact on the ease with which some individuals may be able to observe their religion; there might be potential economic consequences as well. It is also possible that a change might have benefits for some people who are religiously observant. The matter needs to be studied in depth and I can confirm that the report which would be prepared prior to considering whether there should be a trial advancing the clocks would, among other things, include a review of the likely impact on religious observance. The findings on this issue would be taken fully into account by the Government when considering whether to seek to exercise the power to have a trial. In the event of a trial taking place, the effects of the change, including upon religious observance, would also be monitored and taken into account in the decision on whether or not to make the arrangements permanent.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of proposals for changes to legislation governing electoral registration on registration levels at the time of the next boundary review. [78273]

Mr Harper: The Government are funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register which will help us to better understand the way in which the move to individual electoral registration (IER) will have an impact.

The Government are committed to maintaining registration rates during the transition to IER. The next boundary review which is due to report in October 2018 will be conducted by reference to the electoral register, due to be published by 1 December 2015.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much members of her departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74941]

Norman Baker: The Department publishes the business expenses for the Permanent Secretary, Directors General and non-executive members of the Departmental Board every quarter on its public website. Details can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/dft-senior-officials-business-expenses-hospitality/

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects her Department plans in (i) the current and (ii) the next financial year; and what the cost will be of each such project. [74346]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising a central Department (comprising the main headquarters buildings and Accident Investigation Branches) and seven Executive agencies.

Within the central Department there are no planned refurbishment projects in the current or next financial years.

Information on the building works planned within the central Department is as follows:

> Some building works is planned to be undertaken at the main departmental headquarters building in order to comply with legal obligations following the exercising of a lease break of part of the building, which will cease to be occupied by the Department from the end of 2012. We estimate that exercising the lease break will save £5 million per year. The cost of the completed phases for this project in 2011-12 is £261,000.
>
> The Department is also planning to build a new modular office at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (Farnborough) for completion by 31 March 2012, allowing the Rail Accident Investigation Branch to relocate from Woking and be co-located with the AAIB.

The future building costs of both projects is commercial in confidence as disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of the Department.

There are no other building projects planned for the central Department.

Information on the building and refurbishment projects planned by Department for Transport Executive agencies is not centrally recorded and this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over

£5 billion her Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74206]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was only formed in 2002 and no information is available prior to that date.

To extract the data in the format requested both the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) would breach the disproportional costs threshold as they would have to retrieve data from archived legacy systems.

All other contracts of a monetary value are shown in the following table:

Business unit	*Value band*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*Grand total*
DFT(c)	£100,000 to £500,000	50	72	41	51	51	43	64	48	22	9	451
	£500,000 to £1 million	8	9	5	4	5	12	13	13	2	1	72
	£1 million to £5 million	10	7	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	3	62
	£5 million to £10 million	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	7
	£10 million to £50 million	5	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	12
	£50 million to £100 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£100 million to £500 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£500 million to £1 billion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£1 billion to £5 billion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand total	73	89	50	63	63	68	85	72	28	13	604
GCDA	£100,000 to £500,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	13
	£500,000 to £1 million	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	£1 million to £5 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£5 million to £10 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£10 million to £50 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£50 million to £100 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£100 million to £500 million	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£500 million to £1 billion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	£1 billion to £5 billion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand total	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	14
HA	£100,000 to £500,000	56	38	29	45	30	26	18	35	25	11	313
	£500,000 to £1 million	32	22	14	14	17	12	12	15	8	10	156
	£1 million to £5 million	39	24	21	23	28	15	19	27	21	17	234
	£5 million to £10 million	16	8	7	7	4	5	4	7	3	0	61
	£10 million to £50 million	13	14	7	9	11	5	5	10	5	3	82
	£50 million to £100 million	9	4	2	0	1	2	5	5	1	4	32
	£100 million to £500 million	3	3	4	5	3	1	3	7	2	2	34
	£500 million to £1 billion	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	£1 billion to £5 billion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
	Grand total	168	114	85	104	94	66	66	107	66	47	917

Departmental Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many external training courses staff of her Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74348]

Norman Baker: The following table lists the number of external training courses attended by staff in the Department for Transport (DFT) between 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011, and the cost where information is available:

Agency	*Number of training courses*	*Total cost (£)*
Central Department for Transport	[1]—	446,600
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	146	184,348
Government Car and Despatch Agency	3	7,602
Vehicle Certification Agency	[1]—	141,146
Highways Agency	199	251,257
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	129	369,448
Driving Standards Agency	92	159,836
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	0

[1] Number of courses cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

In addition to this, the Department's Transport Learning Group (which is part of the Highways Agency) sources generic learning and development for the whole of DFT. They have run 313 courses over the last 12 months at a total cost of £270,892.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75520]

Norman Baker: First class rail travel expenditure information for DFT (central) and three of its agencies is contained in the following table. Two agencies, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency, report no first class travel. The two remaining agencies, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency, do not record class of travel, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In September 2011, £638 was spent on first class air travel but no other first class air or boat travel was undertaken between May 2010 and September 2011.

DFT(c) figures include the Rail Accident Investigation Branch from April 2011 onwards. Prior to that date RAIB first class travel was not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DFT first class travel, 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011—Rail

						£
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q5*	*August-September 2011*
DFTc	54,965	16,319	24,682	19,825	23,123	9,216
DSA	2,580	90	137	136	0	156
DVLA	13,707	0	0	0	0	0
HA	372,498	7,693	1,953	2,673	1,531	1,308
Total	443,750	24,102	26,772	22,634	24,654	10,680

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Disclosure of Information

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on the future requirement to pass information to car parking companies as proposed in Clause 56 of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, with particular reference to security risks; and if she will make a statement. [78356]

Mike Penning: Private car parking management companies that are members of a Government accredited trade association are already able to request information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to allow alleged parking contraventions to be followed up. Introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Bill will not require changes to the current security arrangements. Consequently, no further discussion with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been necessary.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to define the trigger mechanisms for the deployment of tactically enhanced *(a)* arrivals and *(b)* departures measures at Heathrow Airport. [76780]

Mrs Villiers: The details of the trigger mechanisms for the deployment of tactically enhanced arrival and departure measures as part of the operational freedoms trial at Heathrow airport were published on BAA's website on 1 October and can be found at the following web address:

http://www.heathrowairport.com/noise

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much will be spent on preparatory work for High Speed 2 in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [77814]

Justine Greening: Budget for HS2 Ltd and DFT for the years specified is as follows:

			Budget (£ million)
	Resource Administration and Programme	*Capital*	*Total*
2011-12	[1]116.1	[1]50	166.1
2012-13	163.3	50	213.3

[1] This reflects the budget allocation and is subject to review in light of actual spend to date.

M1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the roadworks on the M1 motorway in the vicinity of junction 11 to be completed, the temporary 50 mph removed and all carriageways re-opened. [77482]

Mike Penning: The M1 junction 10 to 13 managed motorway project is currently due to be completed by spring 2013, which is when the motorway will be fully operational and will include hard shoulder running.

The temporary 50 mph speed restrictions between M1 junctions 10 and 11 will be removed by March 2012, and between junctions 11 and 12 by spring 2013.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purpose lay-bys are being constructed on the M1 motorway south and north of junction 11; and at what cost. [77483]

Mike Penning: The lay-bys being constructed on the M1 south and north of junction 11 are emergency refuge areas. The emergency refuge areas are part of the M1 junction 10 to 13 managed motorway project.

The emergency refuge areas are for use by the travelling public in an emergency or breakdown when the hard shoulder has been opened during high volumes of traffic, and is being used as an additional running lane.

Each emergency refuge area costs approximately £200,000 to construct. The M1 junction 10 to 13 project has 30 emergency refuse areas along its length, with a total construction cost of £6 million.

Motor Vehicles: Fuel

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* additional fuel consumption and *(b)* carbon emissions produced by new vehicles since the introduction of the requirement to fit daytime running lights. [77849]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has made no assessment of changes in fuel consumption and carbon emissions since the introduction of daytime running lamps. Research undertaken for the Department in 2006 indicates that the requirement for new types of motor vehicle to be equipped with dedicated daytime running lamps will result in an increase of about 0.5% in fuel consumption.

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department makes available for the retrofitting of motor vehicles to increase fuel efficiency; and if she will make a statement. [78158]

Norman Baker: The Government have provided no funding for the retrofitting of motor vehicles to improve fuel efficiency. However, they have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, and a programme of research, development work and demonstration work. Low emission vehicles are also supported by the tax system. Further details of these programmes can be found at the Office for Low Emission Vehicles website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev/

Motorways: Speed Limits

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effect of higher speed limits on motorways on the level of *(a)* fuel consumption and *(b)* carbon emissions. [78400]

Mike Penning: We are assessing all the principal effects of raising the national speed limit on motorways and on some all-purpose trunk roads which are close to motorway standard. Our assessments include estimates of fuel use and carbon emissions. We will include these estimates as part of the documentation for the planned consultation.

Public Transport: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that industrial action will not disrupt public services during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [77068]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport takes an active interest in monitoring industrial relations generally, and especially in the run up to the Games next summer.

However, disputes are a matter for employers. In relation to the Olympics this means that transport operators, for example London Underground, are in the lead on managing their own employee and industrial relations risks relating to the Games, with Government not playing a direct role in this process.

Existing legislation requires trade unions contemplating industrial action to ballot their membership and give due notice to the employer. The Department for Transport encourages organisations across the Olympic domain, and the trade unions representing their employees, to resolve any disputes as quickly as possible through negotiation.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to establish the *(a)* Rail System Agency and *(b)* National Safety Task Force recommended in the McNulty Rail Value For Money Study. [78344]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has been working closely with industry and the regulator to examine the proposals in Sir Roy McNulty's independent review of Rail Value for Money.

Many of the recommendations in the review were aimed at industry, not Government, including recommendations in relation to setting up a Rail Systems Agency and National Safety Task Force. The independent Rail Delivery Group is working on these areas.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to establish the Rail Delivery Group with links to cross-industry bodies recommended in the McNulty Rail Value For Money Study. [78345]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 727W, which sets out the details of the Rail Delivery Group.

The Rail Delivery Group has been meeting since June 2011.

Railways: Job Creation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the *(a)* number, *(b)* type and *(c)* likely duration of jobs in the UK which will be created by (i) the Intercity Express programme and (ii) Thameslink rolling stock programme. [76497]

Mrs Villiers: The staffing composition required to fulfil the named rolling stock contracts is a matter for individual manufacturers to decide.

However:

> (i) the preferred bidder for the Intercity Express Programme, Agility Trains, have recently confirmed that they expect their new assembly plant in Newton Aycliffe to generate over 700 jobs in the local area, with further opportunities expected in related supply chains;
>
> (ii) the preferred bidder, Siemens plc with Cross London Trains, have stated that work on the Thameslink rolling stock contract could create up to 2,000 new jobs in the UK, including up to 600 highly skilled roles relating to the manufacture and assembly of components.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she intends to lay a revised Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation before the House. [76671]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* The Department's consultation on implementing the transport elements of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) proposed changes to the current Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) to align the scheme with requirements of the RED, as well as a number of changes not required by the RED that will simplify the RTFO scheme. The consultation included a draft amendment Order.

A summary of responses to that consultation were published on 9 September and is available at:

> http://assets.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-05/dft-2001-05-response.pdf

We will publish the Government's response to the consultation soon, setting out both the plans and timeline for implementation. We then intend to lay before the House an Order which would amend the RTFO with the aim of legislation coming into force on 15 December of this year, subject to the parliamentary process.

Shipping: Safety

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an external risk assessment has been conducted on proposed changes to the maritime safety regime. [73645]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* An external risk assessment has not been conducted on the proposal for the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk assessment her Department has conducted in relation to the proposed changes to the maritime safety regime; and if she will publish that assessment. [73647]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The risks that are perceived to be associated with the modernisation of Her Majesty's Coastguard have been assessed. The associated risk assessment documents have been published on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78065]

Gregory Barker: The information asked for cannot be given without incurring disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [78067]

Gregory Barker: This question cannot be answered without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, the internal cost of the Legal Services Directorate in DECC, in the first six months of the financial year 2011-12, was £2.17 million.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78080]

Gregory Barker: The information asked for cannot be given without incurring disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78087]

Gregory Barker: In June 2011, 51 people were employed in the Legal Services Directorate of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Three people were employed in the legal section of the Coal Authority in June 2011. In the case of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, two people were employed in its legal section. In relation to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the figure was 10 staff in its legal section in June 2011.

The above figures include both staff who are lawyers and those who are not lawyers. They also include part-time, as well as full-time, staff.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78098]

Gregory Barker: The information asked for cannot be given without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, some information covering sums above £500 paid directly to certain solicitors' firms and barristers DECC engaged in 2010-11 is available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/expenditure/spend_over_500/spendover_500.aspx

Departmental NDPBs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78124]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008. Therefore no figures are available prior to this date.

There are no civil servants employed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Civil Nuclear Police Authority, Committee on Climate Change or Coal Authority.

Full information on the number of people working for non-departmental public bodies for which the Department of Energy and Climate Change are responsible is shown at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/about_decc/about_decc.aspx

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78056]

Gregory Barker: The number of civil servants in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the bodies for which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), is responsible, earning more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 as at 31 March 2011 are shown as follows.

Department of Energy and Climate Change	*Number*
(a) More than £65,000	69
(b) More than £95,000	12
(c) More than £140,000	1
(d) More than £175,000	0

The earnings figures used are base salary and do not include any allowances or non consolidated performance related pay.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78369]

Gregory Barker: From 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change had a total of 16 unpaid internships or work experience placements.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Coal Authority and the Committee on Climate Change had none. The Civil Nuclear Police Authority have had one in the last 12 months.

Electricity

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with electricity generators on the need to retain energy intensive industries as future baseload customers. [78291]

Charles Hendry: The Department is working with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury to develop a package of measures to assist those energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies in order to reduce the impact of government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses. We shall announce details of the package before the end of the year.

We have not held discussions directly with electricity generators on this matter.

Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, on the Feed-In Tariff scheme, what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed changes on *(a)* levels of employment in the solar power industry, *(b)* supply chain opportunities for UK companies and *(c)* the international competitiveness of the UK solar power industry; and what estimate he has made of the number of businesses affected by his proposals. [78266]

Gregory Barker: The Feed-in Tariffs scheme has helped create business and job opportunities in green sectors of the economy. Estimates of the scale of this impact in the future are uncertain because they depend on factors such as how many installations will come forward, installation times and how many associated supply chain jobs are created. Our rough estimates based on installations scenarios suggest that there could be around 1,000 to 10,000 gross additional jobs (full-time equivalent) in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under the proposals published by DECC for consultation on 31 October. These estimates relate to jobs within the photovoltaics sector, rather than the overall economy-wide employment level.

The proposed tariffs are intended to provide a rate of return of approximately 4.5-5%, in line with what was intended at the launch of the FITs scheme. By allowing future solar PV uptake at an affordable support level, while still providing attractive rates of return in the current investment climate, FITs will ensure that businesses installing domestic solar PV remain viable at a time when there is spare capacity in the economy which cannot readily be redeployed. These firms will then have the opportunity to position themselves to install some of the energy efficiency measures under the Green Deal/energy company obligation once this policy has been fully introduced (it is currently expected to launch in autumn 2012).

We have not made an assessment in relation to the international competitiveness of the UK solar power industry.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, on the Feed-In Tariff scheme, what discussions he has had with representatives of the solar power industry prior to announcing his proposals. [78267]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

During the development of our proposals for the Feed-In Tariff Comprehensive Review Phase I Consultation, myself and other Ministers met a number of representatives of the solar power industry.

Natural Gas

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential contribution of shale gas in meeting energy needs in the next decade; and if he will make a statement. [77848]

Charles Hendry: Last year DECC contacted a number of academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and private businesses to request further evidence to help inform the Department's views on the prospects for global unconventional gas production. A range of factors make unconventional gas more costly and harder to access in regions outside of North America.

Given the uncertainties around when, and the degree to which, unconventional gas will be produced outside North America, DECC continues to take a cautious view of the implications for gas security of supply. We will be monitoring progress closely.

Looking at domestic potential, a British Geological Survey study in 2010 estimated that if UK shales were similar to those in the USA they could yield some 150 billion cubic metres of gas, equivalent to roughly two years of UK demand. The BGS is currently undertaking more detailed work for the Department which will also take into account the recent drilling results of Cuadrilla in Lancashire. However little drilling has taken place and commercial production of shale gas has not been proven, so it is not yet possible to make a reliable estimate of recoverable reserves.

Overall therefore it is too early to be able to assess the potential contribution of shale gas in meeting energy needs in the next decade.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73671]

Robert Neill: Since my last statement to the House on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 82WS, the Department has spent £2,347. In 2008-09 the Department spent £23,500 and in 2009-10 it spent £9,251.

A breakdown of spending since 27 July 2010 can be found in the following table. In the interests of transparency, this also includes contributions towards events hosted with, and held at, other Government Departments.

	Host	*Event*	*Venue*	*Number of attendees*	*Hospitality cost (£)*
21 September 2010	Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP	Eid ul-Fitr Reception (co-hosted with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for the Home Department)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	[1]425	[2]400
25 November 2010	Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP	A reception to celebrate Inter Faith Week	Admiralty House	140	1,694.59
21 December 2010	Ministerial Team	Christmas thank you reception for senior officials	Eland House	100	252.67

[1] Approx.

[2] DCLG's share.

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case; [60397]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60500]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* On 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 56WS, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), revoked the bureaucratic two-tier code (the 'Handling of workforce matters in contracting and the Code of Practice on workforce matters in local authority service contracts'). Removing this guidance will help create a level playing field, ensure more opportunities for innovation, help ensure better value for taxpayers' money in the provision of public services, and remove red tape that hinders job creation.

Statutory instruments should not necessarily be viewed as regulations—they are pieces of secondary legislation which ensure policy measures have parliamentary oversight. A list of the statutory instruments which came into force between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 is listed in the following table. I would note that all these 15 statutory instruments either had zero cost, no regulatory cost to the private sector, or had a net regulatory benefit.

SI No	*SI short title*	*Type*	*Coming into force date*	*Cost*
SI 2011 No 255	Rating and Valuation, England—The Non-Domestic Rating and Business Rate Supplements (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	Negative	10 March 2011	Zero cost
SI 2011 No 434	Council Tax, England Rating And Valuation, England—The Valuation Tribunal for England, Non-Domestic Rating and Council Tax (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	Negative	1 April 2011	Zero cost
SI 2011 No 560	Urban Development—The West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (Planning Functions) (Amendment) Order 2011	Negative	1 April 2011	Zero cost
SI 2011 No 561	Pensions, England And Wales—The Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	Negative	1 April 2011	No impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. Possible minor efficiency savings for local government.
SI 2011 No 549	Urban Development—The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (Planning Functions) (Amendment) Order 2011	Negative	1 April 2011	No impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. Devolving power to local government.
SI 2011 No 550	Town and Country Planning, England—The Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) (Amendment) Order 2011	Negative	1 April 2011	Zero cost
SI 2011 No 705 (C.29)	Infrastructure Planning—The Planning Act 2008 (Commencement No.6) Order 2011	No Procedure	6 April 2011	This was simply a commencement order to initiate provisions on waste water infrastructure passed earlier on in the Planning Act 2008.
SI 2011 No 817	Local Government, England—The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011	Negative	31 March 2011	Zero cost. This SI revoked eight associated SIs with an estimated audit fee saving of £0.9 million per annum
SI 2011 No 948	Council Tax, England and Wales—The Council Tax (Discount Disregards) (Amendment) Order 2011	Negative	13 May 2011	Zero cost

SI No	*SI short title*	*Type*	*Coming into force date*	*Cost*
2011 No. 1002 (C.40)	Housing, England—The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (Commencement No.8 and Transitional, Transitory and Saving Provisions) Order 2011	No Procedure	30 April 2011	[1]No impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. Net cost of £387,000 to local authorities, but benefits for mobile home residents which have not been monetised.
2011 No. 1003	Mobile Homes, England—The Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Amendment of Schedule 1 and Consequential Amendments) (England) Order 2011	Affirmative—Completed	30 April 2011	[1]—
2011 No. 1004	Housing, England and Wales—The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (Consequential Amendments to the Mobile Home Act 1983) Order 2011	Affirmative—Completed	30 April 2011	[1]—
2011 No. 1005	Mobile Homes, England—The Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Jurisdiction of Residential Property Tribunals) (England) Order 2011	Affirmative—Completed	30 April 2011	The impact assessment estimates a net benefit of £1.2 million.
2011 No. 1006	Mobile Homes, England—The Mobile Homes (Written Statement) (England) Regulations 2011	Negative	30 April 2011	Zero cost
2011 No. 1007	Housing, England—The Residential Property Tribunal Procedures and Fees (England) Regulations 2011	Negative	30 April 2011	Zero cost

[1] Indicates brace

Associated with the mobile homes provisions, four previous statutory instruments were revoked, and were cost neutral.

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in the last 12 months. [77149]

Robert Neill: Currently DCLG does not operate any helplines that cater for specific issues or groups of people. However, the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) provides free advice on the law affecting residential leasehold property in England and Wales.

Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external training courses staff of his Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74344]

Robert Neill: The following table details external training courses staff have attended since April 2011. These data are based on courses booked through the new centralised system introduced in April 2011. Information on courses booked directly, and prior to, April 2011 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

External training course	*Total cost (£)*
Pensions—Transfer Values Course	195.00
Government Statistical Service Induction Course	50.00
Structured Query Language Training Course	1,865.00
Professional Accountancy Skills Course (two attendees)	2,594.00
Database Administration Course	3,000.00
Introductory Course for Lawyers	1,320.00
Introductory Course for Lawyers	1,320.00
Whitehall and Industry Group Senior Leaders Programme	6,500.00
Principal Agent Theory and the Economics of Performance Management	350.00
Negotiations Skills Course	2,260.00
Viability and Renegotiating Course	499.00
Macroeconomics Refresher (three attendees)	2,085.00
National School of Government Legal Training (four attendees)	3,360.00
Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Course	95.00
Analyst Professional Experience Training Course	150.00
Structured Query Language Training Course	695.00
Property Training Event (two attendees)	224.00
Government Statistical Service Statistical Foundations Course	2,000.00
Planning Summer School	934.80
Leadership Development Training (in-house event—numerous attendees)	122.60
Data Management in the Public Sector	275.00
Organisational Development and Effectiveness	1,030.00

External training course	*Total cost (£)*
Social Media and Public Sector Communications Course	335.75
Government Statistical Service—Statistical Foundations Course	1,000.00
Government Statistical Service—Statistical Foundations Course	1,000.00
Internal Audit—Beginners Course	1,237.00
Catalyst Course	1,600.00
Government Statistical Service—Statistical Foundations Course	1,000.00
Government Statistical Service—Statistical Foundations Course	1,000.00
Information Systems Auditing Revision Workshop	495.00
Procurement: Shaping New Law into Developed Advice	269.00
National School of Government—Negotiating Skills Course	740.00
Microeconomics of Public Policy	431.00
Social and Digital Media Course (three attendees)	1,200.00
Public Law Course	50.00
Managing Self Course	135.00
Carbon Conversations Workshop	130.00
Programming—Data Manipulation Course	1,455.00
National School of Government—Industrial Action	95.00
Managing Risk of Financial Loss Workshop	1,500.00
Government Communications Network Introduction to Evaluation	200.00
Government Communications Network Introduction to Evaluation	200.00
Data Protection Update Session	195.00
Parliamentary Questions Course	220.00
Total	45,412.15

It is important that specialist staff have the means to maintain and build their continuing professional development (CPD) through attendance at specific external training events. This is necessary to ensure they are recognised as professionals within their field of expertise.

Government Procurement Card

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) of 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1102W, on the Government Procurement Card, which of the transactions under the heading of *(a)* restaurants and bars and *(b)* leisure activities in the Government Procurement Card transaction data of (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08, were made using cards held by the private office of (A) each Minister in his Department and (B) the permanent secretary. [72390]

Robert Neill: The following transactions were made under the heading of "restaurants and bars" and "leisure activities" using cards held by ministerial and the permanent secretary's private offices in this Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08:

2006-07

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
5 April 2006	Zippi	London	Restaurants and Bars	19.30
6 April 2006	Tantric Jazz	Bristol	Restaurants and Bars	161.10
12 April 2006	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	18.25
19 April 2006	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	18.00
24 April 2006	The National Club	Toronto	Restaurants and Bars	336.76
16 June 2006	House of Lords Refr Dept	Westminster	Restaurants and Bars	104.35
19 June 2006	Aqua Riva Restaurant	Vancouver	Restaurants and Bars	38.13
6 July 2006	Oceanarium Café	Bournemouth	Leisure Activities	7.09
6 July 2006	Red Eventful Cuisine	Bournemouth	Restaurants and Bars	11.00
6 July 2006	Red Eventful Cuisine	Bournemouth	Restaurants and Bars	4.60
22 August 2006	Oriental Buffet Restaurant	Burnley	Restaurants and Bars	24.90
21 September 2006	Rothley Court Hotel	Rothley	Restaurants and Bars	223.15
6 October 2006	The White Hart Inn	Oldham	Restaurants and Bars	203.80
6 October 2006	Elite Ravintola	Helsinki	Restaurants and Bars	204.87
13 October 2006	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	269.40
13 October 2006	House of Lords Refr Department	Westminster	Restaurants and Bars	47.95
15 October 2006	JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai	Shanghai	Restaurants and Bars	3.86
23 November 2006	Starbucks Coffee Co	London	Restaurants and Bars	2.89
26 November 2006	Pasta Pizza Bel Canto 39	Madrid	Restaurants and Bars	11.51
4 December 2006	Mango Tree	London	Restaurants and Bars	175.00
17 January 2007	The Cinnamon Club	London	Restaurants and Bars	84.00
31 January 2007	Wetherspoon Express	Stansted	Restaurants and Bars	2.80
16 February 2007	The Plough Inn	Lancaster	Restaurants and Bars	17.00
22 February 2007	Mango Tree	London	Restaurants and Bars	-175.00
9 March 2007	Ask Pasta and Pizza	London SW1E	Restaurants and Bars	23.75
26 March 2007	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	249.90
29 March 2007	Wagamama Victoria	London	Restaurants and Bars	118.85

2006-07

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
29 March 2007	Gruppo Inn The Parks Ltd	London SW1A	Restaurants and Bars	59.29
30 March 2007	Buffalo Bar & Grill	Auckland	Restaurants and Bars	36.39
30 March 2007	Sky City AK Ltd	Auckland	Restaurants and Bars	72.41

2007-08

Transaction date	*Merchant*	*Town*	*Spend category*	*Transaction amount (£)*
10 April 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	30.95
27 April 2007	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	29.50
20 May 2007	Ground	London W4 6551	Restaurants and Bars	21.95
21 May 2007	Wagamama Victoria	London	Restaurants and Bars	33.65
24 May 2007	Ask Pasta and Pizza	London SW1E	Restaurants and Bars	47.85
22 June 2007	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	50.00
28 June 2007	Deliverance Ltd	London W12	Restaurants and Bars	17.90
28 June 2007	Deliverance Ltd	London W12	Restaurants and Bars	10.45
28 June 2007	Deliverance Ltd	London W12	Restaurants and Bars	145.85
28 June 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	36.50
29 June 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	111.65
4 July 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	23.70
17 July 2007	Zizzi BR783	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	53.55
19 July 2007	Zizzi BR783	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	31.60
20 July 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	58.75
21 July 2007	Starbucks Coffee Co	Abbotinch	Restaurants and Bars	3.90
7 August 2007	Pitcher & Piano	Newcastle	Restaurants and Bars	11.90
16 August 2007	White Horse	Abingdon	Restaurants and Bars	18.35
12 September 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	33.30
11 October 2007	Pizza Express 1341	Victoria 1	Restaurants and Bars	32.20
22 October 2007	Akbar Balti Restaurant	Bradford	Restaurants and Bars	39.00
1 November 2007	Costa @ GNER	Doncaster	Restaurants and Bars	6.55
9 January 2008	Zizzi BR783	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	16.70
27 January 2008	Ritazza	Euston Stn	Restaurants and Bars	3.10
13 February 2008	Old Star	City of Westminster	Restaurants and Bars	93.00
20 February 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	63.40
27 February 2008	Costa Waterloo	London SE1	Restaurants and Bars	3.05
11 March 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	61.25
12 March 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	19.80
13 March 2008	Cafe Gramunken	Stockholm	Restaurants and Bars	7.63
19 March 2008	Refreshment Dpt Micros	London SW1P	Restaurants and Bars	9.00
31 March 2008	Wagamama Victoria	Victoria	Restaurants and Bars	23.45

The Government Procurement Card spend categories depend on how the vendor classifies their business.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77367]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has had 28 computers, four mobile phones, five BlackBerrys and four memory sticks that have been lost or stolen since May 2010. No other IT equipment has been lost.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78374]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not run a formal internship programme but some individual arrangements are organised by departments; figures are not held centrally.

DFID provided three placements for the Civil Service Whitehall Internship Programme. This programme involved a two-week placement in London for sixth form college level students which took place from 25 July to 5 August 2011.

Developing Countries: Disability

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's country programmes specifically tackle exclusion of children with disabilities from education. [76888]

Mr Duncan: The coalition Government are committed to the inclusion of disabled people in development. Following a root and branch review of all of the UK's aid spending, we recently published our priorities for the next four years in the document "UK Aid: Changing Lives, Delivering Results" which can be found on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The document sets out how aid spending will be prioritised for programmes that ensure all children have access to education and which recognise the rights of children with disabilities.

For example, DFID supports Nepal's national education programme, known as the Schools Sector Reform Programme. This aims to improve enrolment and attendance in school for children with disabilities through measures such as the provision of targeted scholarships to disabled girls and the construction of schools for children with special needs.

Developing Countries: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on supporting renewable energy feed-in tariff pilots in developing countries. [78037]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Feed-in tariffs can play a useful part in increasing the access of poor people to clean energy in developing countries. Due to the wide range of contexts in which we operate, the Department for International Development designs renewable energy projects on a case by case basis. This enables us to maximise value for money and the results they deliver for the poorest.

We are willing to consider requests for support for designing and piloting feed-in tariffs in the countries in which we work.

Developing Countries: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department supports to increase the representation of women in the teaching workforce in low income countries in *(a)* rural and *(b)* other areas. [78159]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Girls and women are at the heart of the coalition Government's development agenda. All UK bilateral education programmes have a specific focus on girls' education as part of their wider programme of education sector support. This includes support for female teachers in rural areas where the recruitment and retention of female teachers is particularly an issue.

In Nigeria, the Girls Education Project will train over 700 female teachers in rural areas. The project is being implemented in northern states, in areas where there are almost no female teachers at present. More information on our projects can be found on the DFID project database website:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the aid his Department provides to Ethiopia is distributed via *(a)* the Ethiopian Government and *(b)* non-governmental organisations in that country; and if he will make a statement. [77175]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK does not provide general budget support to the Government of Ethiopia. The UK's support to the Government is ring fenced for use by local government and sector ministries in support of health, education, water, food security and public financial management programmes. Around 6% of the UK's aid for Ethiopia in 2010-11 was provided to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The remainder was disbursed to the United Nations, World Bank and other organisations that deliver development results through NGOs and the Government.

With the support of these complementary funding approaches from the UK, in the past few years Ethiopia has: halved the incidence of malaria; deployed 32,000 more health extension workers; doubled the immunisation rate; rolled out an innovative social safety net to protect eight million of the most vulnerable people; and put 4 million more children in primary school.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia. [77810]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: According to the Government of Ethiopia, 4.56 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance countrywide. Rains have now started in most of the drought-affected areas. This will bring some relief to farmers and pastoralists but also increases the risk of disease outbreaks.

A new humanitarian assessment is planned for November. We expect that the overall number of people in need will reduce in 2012 as a favourable harvest in the highlands will help to stabilise food prices and improve availability. However, in the drought-affected south-eastern lowlands it will take communities at least two years to recover. We are particularly concerned about the situation in the conflict-affected Somali Region of Ethiopia, where insecurity makes it difficult to provide assistance to over 1 million people in need. We are addressing these issues with the Ethiopian authorities.

There are also 250,000 refugees in Ethiopia. According to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, over 90,000 Somali refugees have arrived since the beginning of the year, fleeing drought and conflict in their own country. A further 28,000 have arrived from Sudan since September, fleeing the continuing conflict in Blue Nile State.

This year, the UK has provided emergency food aid to over 2.4 million drought-affected Ethiopians. In addition, we are currently providing treatment for over 100,000 malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, clean water and sanitation for over 420,000 people, seeds and fertilizer for over 26,000 families, and animal health care for over 9,000 families. We have also provided emergency shelter, water and essential items for over 125,000 Somali refugees.

To break the cycle of drought and crisis, we also support programmes to build resilience of drought-affected communities, including the national safety net programme that provides cash and food in exchange for work to nearly 8 million people vulnerable people.

Foreign Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities he has set for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in respect of improving aid effectiveness in conflict-affected and fragile states. [78222]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Improving aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict affected states is a high priority for the UK at the Fourth High Level Forum. The UK's other priorities are to improve results and transparency of development assistance as a means to improve aid impact.

The UK strongly supports the so-called 'New Deal' for international engagement in fragile states which will be presented at the High Level Forum. The New Deal is still under negotiation but comprises a set of new goals and commitments to deliver legitimate, inclusive politics and build better security, justice and economic foundations. The New Deal is being negotiated by fragile states themselves working in partnership with donors and civil society.

The outcome document is at its third draft stage. The UK continues to push for a strong outcome document focusing on the UK priorities of a new deal for fragile and conflict affected states, results and transparency.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the commitments on aid effectiveness in conflict-affected and fragile states in the third draft outcome document for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. [78223]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Improving aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict affected states is a high priority for the UK at the Fourth High Level Forum. The UK's other priorities are to improve results and transparency of development assistance as a means to improve aid impact.

The UK strongly supports the so-called 'New Deal' for international engagement in fragile states which will be presented at the High Level Forum. The New Deal is still under negotiation but comprises a set of new goals and commitments to deliver legitimate, inclusive politics and build better security, justice and economic foundations. The New Deal is being negotiated by fragile states themselves working in partnership with donors and civil society.

The outcome document is at its third draft stage. The UK continues to push for a strong outcome document focusing on the UK priorities of a new deal for fragile and conflict affected states, results and transparency.

Human Rights: Training

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training in human rights officials of his Department receive; and whether the rights of children forms a component of such training. [78312]

Mr Duncan: All DFID staff are expected to have a basic awareness of issues in human rights. Some advisory groups in DFID, such as those for social development and governance, build deeper knowledge, skills and experience in human rights, including children's rights. DFID supports the professional development of staff through access to a range of value for money courses and opportunities. Training is currently provided through an online e-learning course on human rights that supports staff to analyse and use human rights information and apply it to their work. It also ensures that staff are aware of legal obligations and responsibilities under the UK Human Rights Act 1998.

International Assistance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage donors such as *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* other donors to give aid for social objectives as grants rather than loans. [77139]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's policy is that the terms on which financial assistance is provided should be determined by what a developing country can afford, rather than how it chooses to use these resources independent of the source of funding. The World Bank only lends money to those countries who can repay the loan. For low income countries, lending is provided on highly concessional terms through a dedicated arm of the World Bank, the International Development Association (IDA). For the poorest most indebted countries, such as Yemen and Burkina Faso, IDA funding is provided as grants. I am encouraging other donors to meet their aid commitments and to spend their resources to meet poor country demands in line with international guidelines.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his Department has sought advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [76361]

Mr O'Brien: That information is set out in the following table and reports how many invoices for counsel's fees the Treasury Solicitor's Department received in respect of cases where DFID was the client. It also gives the sum of the value of those invoices. It is reported by reference to the financial years when the invoices for counsel's fees were issued (please note I have included 2008-09 even though it was not listed in the question).

DFID	*Count of invoices*	*Sum of value (£)*
2007-08	1	658
2008-09	7	6,979
2009-10	12	9,477

DFID	*Count of invoices*	*Sum of value (£)*
2010-11	11	15,546
2011[1]	8	7,910
Grand total	39	40,570

[1] To September 2011

Further, I can report that the 39 invoices related to 11 cases.

Overseas Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the three richest countries are to which his Department provides development aid; and whether he plans to reduce the level of assistance provided to those countries. [76715]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2010-11, the latest year for which information is available, the three countries in receipt of development assistance from DFID with the highest gross national income per capita were Russia (DFID funding of £1.3 million in 2010-11), Brazil (£0.2 million) and South Africa (£17.4 million). The UK's bilateral development programme in Russia will end as soon as possible. DFID does not currently have a dedicated bilateral programme in Brazil. From 2009 onwards, DFID's Brazil related expenditure has primarily been used to promote a stronger role for Brazil in addressing global development challenges. Of these three countries, South Africa is the only country with a continuing bilateral development programme. South Africa faces substantial development challenges with 13 million people surviving on less than £1 per day and nearly one in five of the adult population living with HIV. A distinctive British bilateral aid programme focused on HIV and support of private sector development as an engine for growth can make a significant impact. More details on the top priorities and results to be achieved in South Africa can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Africa-Eastern--Southern/South-Africa/

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what in-country situation analyses were conducted as part of the process of developing his Department's operational plans. [78263]

Mr Duncan: In-country situation analyses for operational plans were conducted by DFID's country offices as part of the Bilateral Aid review process in 2010. Each of our country teams was asked to develop a "results offer" which set out what outcomes they could achieve over the next four years. These offers were underpinned by evidence and analysis of the situation in each country. Agreed results formed the basis of the operational plans.

Overseas Aid: Children

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid budget has been spent on children or child-related areas in each year between 2008 and 2011. [78313]

Mr Duncan: Department for International Development expenditure information is not collected by beneficiary group but by sector such as education. The spend on education from 2008-09 to 2010-11 was:

	£ million
2008-09	451
2009-10	395
2010-11	561

Statistics on DFID's aid programme can be found in the National Statistics publication "Statistics on International Development", published on the DFID website at the following link:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2011/

This provides information on spend by sector but no sector consists wholly of expenditure on children.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has a child protection policy. [78314]

Mr Duncan: DFID does not have a dedicated child protection policy. However, the coalition Government are strongly committed to working towards children achieving their full potential, as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The convention is a powerful tool for engaging with Governments, donors and others on the rights of children and the millennium development goals. We also support the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) who work in over 190 countries in the world to support vulnerable children.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent *(a)* on humanitarian relief for people in and from Somalia and *(b)* in total in Somalia in (i) the current financial year to date and (ii) in each of the last three financial years. [76765]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During the current crisis, results achieved to date through UK aid for people in and from Somalia include: provision of food for 247,000 people; 490,000 children vaccinated against measles; safe drinking water for 300,000 Somali refugees; tents for 20,000 households in Dadaab Camp in Kenya; shelter and essential household items such as blankets and cooking utensils for 40,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. In the current financial year, my Department has spent £74 million on humanitarian relief for Somalis.

During the last three financial years, results achieved include treatment of 100,000 starving children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers; provision of clean water to 350,000 people; provision of shelter for 50,000 internally displaced people; and 1.3 million children and women vaccinated. The Department for International Development spent £80 million on humanitarian assistance: £29.9 million in 2010; £31.9 million in 2009 and £18.3 million in 2008. The Department has also provided support for Somali refugees through funding to the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees as part of their wider programmes in Kenya and Ethiopia.

So far during the current financial year, some of the results achieved through other aid to Somalia include: an increase in child-birth deliveries attended to by skilled attendants from 9% to 13%; eight peace agreements averting inter-communal and cross-border conflicts, with over 10,000 people benefiting from improved access to services and reduction in civilian casualties; creation of over 200,000 long-term jobs and provision of demand-driven training to 5,700 youth, of which 60% were women. The Department for International Development has so far spent £59 million in aid to Somalia the current financial year. The initial approved operational plan budget for Somalia was £44 million. On current projections, the Department expects to spend at least £84.5 million in total this financial year, including humanitarian allocations made in the year. The additional allocations were made in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation and enhanced needs because of the drought, high food prices and ongoing conflict.

Over the last three financial years, my Department spent £47.5 million in 2010, £55 million in 2009 and £35.6 million in 2008 as aid to Somalia. See link:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2011/

Yemen

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* material and *(b)* technical support his Department provided to the Yemeni Government in each of the last five years. [77550]

Mr Duncan: I have placed in the House of Commons Library a table that sets out *(a)* material and *(b)* technical support provided by the Department for International Development to the Yemeni Government in each of the last five years. We have interpreted support broadly and included instances where the Government of Yemen was an indirect or eventual beneficiary.

Full details of DFID's programmes which were active from August 2009 onwards are published on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID does not provide funding directly to the Government of Yemen.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

e-Petitions

Robert Halfon: To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's e-petition system; and if he will make a statement. [78169]

Mr Heath: The e-petitions site currently hosts more than 7,000 e-petitions sharing more than 2 million signatures.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for starting what was the third e-petition to pass the 100,000 signature threshold, and hope that he agrees with me that this is just one way in which the effectiveness of the site has been demonstrated.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 2 November 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73672]

[Official Report, 13 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 538W.]

Letter of correction from John Penrose:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) on 13 October 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

John Penrose: Since October 2010, the Department has spent a total of £890.36 on events hosted by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson).

The correct answer should have been:

John Penrose: Since October 2010, the Department has spent a total of **£1,628.25 on events hosted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) and** £890.36 on events hosted by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson).

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the benefits to Scotland of the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [75214]

[Official Report, 19 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 1000-01W.]

Letter of correction from Hugh Robertson:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Glenrothes (Lindsay Roy) on 19 October 2011. The funding amount given for the Legacy Trust UK was incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the nations and regions group (NRG) to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

As part of the funding of the London 2012 activity in the nations and regions the Department is contributing towards the costs of the Scottish Government employing the Inspire programmer in Scotland from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Scotland stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Scotland will benefit from the games are given as follows.

Over 19,800 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's London 2012 education programme Get Set, 1,251 schools and colleges are registered in Scotland, 44.7% of the total number of schools and colleges in the nation. 95 schools in the Fife area have registered for Get Set including Glenrothes High School.

Over 1,700 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark. In Scotland 36 projects have been awarded Inspire marks. In June 2011, the Festival of Sport was launched in Scotland, Fife council participated in this Inspire marked project. The aim of the festival was using the inspiration of the games to profile physical activity and increase the membership of sports clubs.

The Legacy Trust have awarded £4.7 million for 'The Scottish Project', a diverse range of cultural, sporting and educational activities, bringing together thousands of volunteers, artists and the public to leave a lasting legacy from London 2012 and Glasgow 2014.

In addition, 25 contracts have been awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to businesses in the nation. These include KN Environmental Services Ltd from Perth who provided materials for the Aquatics Centre, Millstream Associates Ltd from Aberdeen who provided procurement services and Mason Land Surveys Ltd from Dunfermline who provided engineering services. The hon. Member can find a list of contractors on the ODA suppliers map at the link as follows:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/map.php

So far 4,072 companies in the nation have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and 48 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Not all the information on 'supply chain' level contracts is in the public domain. There may be other companies that have secured 'supply chain' contracts in the nation.

Locations across the UK, particularly those that are hosting international teams in pre-games training camps (PGTCs), have additional opportunities to realise the economic benefits of the games. Two agreements have been signed with teams to hold PGTCs in Scotland, with the National Olympic Committees of Zambia and Namibia. In addition, Hampden Park will host rounds of the football competition.

The Department is currently working with Glasgow 2014 Ltd on the post-games relocation of shooting range assets to Scotland. Furthermore, there is the potential for relocation of other facilities as part of the LOCOG post-games games equipment and assets transfers.

The correct answer should have been:

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the nations and regions group (NRG) to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

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The £4.6 million programme 'The Scottish Project', includes a diverse range of cultural, sporting and educational activities, bringing together volunteers, artists and the public to leave a lasting legacy from London 2012 and Glasgow 2014. The Legacy Trust, Creative Scotland and other partner organisations have contributed financially to the programme.

In addition, 25 contracts have been awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to businesses in the nation. These include KN Environmental Services Ltd from Perth who provided materials for the Aquatics Centre, Millstream Associates Ltd from Aberdeen who provided procurement services and Mason Land Surveys Ltd from Dunfermline who provided engineering services. The hon. Member can find a list of contractors on the ODA suppliers map at the link as follows:

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The Department is currently working with Glasgow 2014 Ltd on the post-games relocation of shooting range assets to Scotland. Furthermore, there is the potential for relocation of other facilities as part of the LOCOG post-games games equipment and assets transfers.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 3 November 2011

TRANSPORT

Shipping: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change is in the number of investigators at the Marine Accident Investigation Branch over the period of the current spending review. [76549]

[Official Report, 31 October 2011, Vol. 534, c. 418W.]

Letter of correction from Mike Penning:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle) on 31 October 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Under plans to reduce its costs in line with the outcome of the October 2010 spending review, the number of MAIB investigators will be reduced from 21 to 16.

The correct answer should have been:

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Under plans to reduce its costs in line with the outcome of the October 2010 spending review, the number of MAIB investigators **has already been reduced from 21 to 18, and will reduce further to 17 by the end of this month and to 16 by March.**

TREASURY

Unemployment (Women)

The following are the answers given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Norwich North (Miss Smith), to questions from the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) during Treasury Question Time on 1 November 2011.

4. **Fiona Mactaggart** (Slough) (Lab): What assessment he has made of the effects of the 2011 Budget on unemployment amongst women. [77444]

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Miss Chloe Smith): The Office for Budget Responsibility published its unemployment forecasts in March 2011, taking full account of announcements at Budget 2011, but it does not publish forecasts by gender. The Government are committed to tackling unemployment and helping support women into work. The hon. Lady will be aware that female employment has remained broadly steady since the start of 2008. Employment among women aged 25 to 64 is up more than 100,000 since the start of 2008, and has risen by 15,000 in the last three months.

Fiona Mactaggart: I was welcoming a young woman to the Front Bench, and I am glad to see young people representing people in this Parliament, but I do think it is shocking that we currently have the highest level of unemployment in more than 20 years—

Miss Smith: I have a number of things to say to the hon. Lady, none of which would include any personal questions, of course.

I can assure the hon. Lady that the Government are reducing the deficit fairly, and I would point out in particular that we are taking 1.1 million of the lowest-paid workers out of tax entirely, and the majority of them are women. She will welcome that as much as I do. Furthermore, she should know that unemployment rose to its level of 30% under her party's Government.

[Official Report, 1 November 2011, Vol. 534, c. 745.]

Letter of correction from Miss Chloe Smith:

Errors have been identified in the oral answers given on 1 November 2011. The correct answers should have been:

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Miss Chloe Smith): The Office for Budget Responsibility published its unemployment forecasts in March 2011, taking full account of announcements at Budget 2011, but it does not publish forecasts by gender. The Government are committed to tackling unemployment and helping support women into work. The hon. Lady will be aware that female employment has remained broadly steady since the start of 2008. Employment among women aged 25 to 64 is up more than 100,000 since the start of 2008, and has risen by 15,000 in the **three months to August 2011.**

Miss Smith: I have a number of things to say to the hon. Lady, none of which would include any personal questions, of course.

I can assure the hon. Lady that the Government are reducing the deficit fairly, and I would point out in particular that we are taking 1.1 million of the lowest-paid workers out of tax entirely, and the majority of them are women. She will welcome that as much as I do. Furthermore, she should know that **female unemployment rose by 30%** under her party's Government.

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